

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 1627.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1859.

PRICE
FOURPENCE
Stamped Edition, 5d.

GEOLOGY.—King's College, London.—PROFESSOR TENNANT, F.G.S., will COMMENCE a COURSE of LECTURES ON GEOLOGY on FRIDAY MORNING, January 26, at Nine o'clock. They will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday and Friday, at the same hour.

R. W. HILL, D.D., Principal.

LECTURES TO WORKING MEN. GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF MINES, Jermyn-street.

The SECOND COURSE of SIX LECTURES, on the MODELS which ILLUSTRATE THE ART of MINING, will WARINGTON W.M. MILL, M.A., F.R.S., will be COMMENCED on MONDAY, January 10th, at Eight o'clock.

Tickets may be obtained, by WORKING MEN ONLY, on Monday, January 3rd, from Ten to Four o'clock, upon payment of a Registration Fee of Sixpence. The applicant is requested to bring his name, address, and occupation written on a piece of paper, for which the Ticket will be exchanged.

TRENTON REEKS, Registrar.

THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, Jermyn-street, IS OPEN EVERY DAY BUT FRIDAY. Admission, FREE.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL. NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS.

All PICTURES intended for EXHIBITION and SALE of the ensuing Season must be sent to the Gallery for the Inspection of the Committee on MONDAY, the 10th, or TUESDAY, the 11th, of January next, and the SCULPTURE on WEDNESDAY, the 12th, between the hours of Ten in the morning and Two in the afternoon. Portraits, Drawings in Water-colours, and Architectural Drawings are also admissible; and no Picture or other Work of Art will be received which has already been publicly exhibited.

By order of the Committee.

GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

CHAIR of NATURAL PHILOSOPHY in the UNIVERSITY of ST. ANDREWS.—The Chair of NATURAL PHILOSOPHY in this University will shortly become vacant. Gentlemen who are desirous of offering themselves as Candidates are requested to forward their Applications and Testimonials, or before the 1st of January next, to the Secretary to the United Societies, who can afford the required information regarding the duties attached to the office, the Salary, &c.

W. F. IRELAND, Secretary, United College, St. Andrews, 14th Dec. 1858.

St. Andrews.

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EDINBURGH REVIEW. No. CCXXI.—ADVERTISEMENTS intended for insertion are requested to be forwarded to the Publishers immediately. ADVERTISEMENTS and BILLS cannot be received later than FRIDAY NEXT.

London : Longman & Co. 29, Paternoster-row.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW. No. CCIX.—ADVERTISEMENTS for the forthcoming Number must be forwarded to the Publisher by the 7th, and BILLS for insertion by the 10th inst.

50, Albemarle-street, London,

Dec. 28, 1858.

PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNAL. — The next Number will be published on the 8th of January, 1859.

ADVERTISEMENTS intended for insertion in this Number should be sent to the Publisher on or before the 6th of January.

Taylor & Francis, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street, London.

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It need hardly be explained that there is no court-leaning in these *Memoirs* of the Reign of George the Third. The small patience with that sovereign which Horace Walpole possessed, evaporated shortly after the King's accession, bridal, and coronation, described with such airy brilliancy in the well-known *Letters*. But our writer's disposition to put an ill construction on everything done at Court,—to represent it as the head-quarters of cautious intrigue and timid scandal, was not wholly political, perhaps. Personal considerations had some share in the antipathy. The episode of Walpole's life, which brought him into relation with the houses of Guelph and Mecklenburg, makes, what will appear to many, the most curious and special feature of these volumes. The present is a period when a tale of the left-handed marriage of a Prince of the Blood is sure to have many readers.

Horace Walpole was only on terms of brotherly coldness with his elder brother, whom he describes in a passage worth giving as a character in little:—

"My brother Edward, father of the Duchess of Gloucester, and second son of Sir R. Walpole, Prime Minister to George I. and II., and afterwards Earl of Orford, was a man of excellent parts and numerous virtues; the first he buried in obscurity and retirement, the latter he never failed exerting. He had great natural eloquence, wit, humour even to admirable mimicry, uncommon sensibility, large generosity and charity. He drew well but seldom, was a profound musician, and even invented a most touching instrument, which, from the number of its strings, he called a *pentachord*. All these engaging qualities and talents, formed for splendour and society, were confined to inferior companions, for he neither loved the great world, nor was his temper suited to accommodate himself to it, for he was exceedingly passionate, jealous, and impatient of contradiction, though in his later years he acquired more mildness. He wrote several small pieces occasionally both in prose and verse, a very few of which were printed, but never with his name, for no name had less parasite. In pathetic melancholy he chiefly shone, especially in his music, and yet, though his ear was all harmony, his verse was more replete with meaning than it was sonorous. His father he idolized; to his children he was magnificently liberal; to his friends, dependents, servants, profuse; and so far from arrogant to inferiors, he was over-ceremonious. This tribute to his virtues I pay with pleasure, and it may be credited, for to me he was never affectionate, though, but for one short period, we always lived on fair terms."

Sir Edward was the father of three daughters, Laura, Maria, and Charlotte. In the second, who was a natural daughter, Horace Walpole interested himself with proud and eager tenderness. The reader will not have forgotten his self-gratulation in the Mann Letters over the great match which he had "jumbled together" betwixt the beauty and the second Earl of Waldegrave, governor of George the Third when Prince of Wales.—"For character and credit" (Walpole writes) "he is the first match in England,—for beauty I think she is. * * A warm complexion tending to brown, fine eyes, brown hair, fine teeth, and infinite wit and vivacity."—This was in 1759. Six years later the correspondence shows Horace no less eagerly interested in the widowhood of his favourite niece. His letters which give the

account of Lord Waldegrave's sudden illness, and her sorrow, are among the many which may be answered to those who have accused him of heartlessness. It was in 1772 that the marriage of the Duke of Cumberland with Mrs. Horton, and rumours of a like transaction on the part of another of the King's brothers, the Duke of Gloucester, led to the introduction of "The Royal Marriage Bill." The details of the debates in these *Memoirs* are more full, it will readily be believed, than fair;—as a page or two, written in the bitterest of bitter ink, will prove:—

"Lord Hillsborough, a tragic scaramouch, did not yield to the Chancellor in blunders, while Lord Mansfield sat with every mark of vexation in his face at seeing his cobwebs brushed away by the awkwardness of his own instruments. Lord Camden, who had declared he would not attend the Committee, nor meddle with the botching of so bad a bill, made an oration that was allowed a masterpiece of eloquence and argument, even by his antagonists—except in their votes. Lord Temple, though less fine, was not less strong, and concluded with saying that, as he was connected with no man or men, so had he no enmity even to the Ministers, for whose miserable politics he felt a good-natured contempt. Lowth, Bishop of Oxford, confessed he could not reconcile the votes of his brethren to their profession, so abhorrent was the Bill from the doctrines of Christianity. His tremor from disuse of speaking made him deliver what he said with a bad grace. His old enemy Warburton, as ready to sacrifice his Christianity to his interest, as he had embraced it for his interest, replied to him in a style even ludicrous, and with so much indelicacy, that Lord Pembroke said the Bishop of Gloucester had said so much in behalf of fornication, that for the future he should go openly to a brothel with his own chariot and liveries. Keppel of Exeter voted in the minority, but did not speak; he, Lowth, and Evers of Bangor, were the only three prelates who did not abandon all the doctrines of the Bible and of the Church on matrimony: and yet Lowth signed no protest; and though Evers signed one, it was not the one that regarded the religious part. Thus within three weeks were the 39 Articles affirmed, and the New Testament deserted! There was another incident in this debate, of which, though no reply was made to it, much notice was taken. The Duke of Richmond said that, though it was known that the Duke of Cumberland was actually married, and though universally believed that the Duke of Gloucester was so too, no communication of either match had been made to that House—a great indecency, considering that, if there were children from either match, they might become entitled to the Crown. The Duke of Richmond had asked me if I should have any objection to his naming my niece Lady Waldegrave. I thanked him, but said it was impossible for me to give his Grace any answer, for, as I did not know whether she was married to the Duke of Gloucester or not, I could not tell whether the mention of her would serve or hurt her. As I did not know her mind, I could not tell whether she would like to be mentioned or not: were she not married, and the mention of it should bring that secret to light, I should ruin her by advising it, and therefore I begged to be excused from giving any opinion at all. Governor Pownall had come to me on the same occasion, and I had given him the same answer. Even with General Conway I would not talk on the subject; I told him he knew how little fond I was of Royal families, and how little desirous of being related to them; that I had done all I could to break off my niece's connexion with the Duke of Gloucester, and that, not having succeeded, I had determined never to meddle with that affair more, and had strictly kept my resolution; that I knew, if he dissented from the bill, that it would be supposed I had influenced him, but, as I should declare I had not, I would have it to say with the utmost truth that I would not suffer even him to talk to me on the subject; and though, according to his custom, he was anxious that I

should advise him what was proper for him to do with regard to his character, I persisted in not talking to him on the subject. All I would say, and which was not at all in character for me to say, was that I thought he should not offend the King if he could help it. When I would not go into the Court by the straight door, I was resolved nobody should even suspect that I wished to creep up by a private staircase. The majority was much increased on the 7th. Lord Mansfield had told the King that his Ministers were divided (in truth they were in their hearts unanimous against the bill), and that he must oblige them to support it heartily, or change his Administration. The advice was taken and succeeded. The King grew dictatorial, and all his creatures kissed the earth. It was given out that he would take a dissent on this bill as a personal affront—adieu! qualms, fears, and care of posterity!"

What we give next will be little more than extract:—

"Pall Mall, Tuesday Evening, May 19, 1772.

"Dear Brother,—I owe it to you in friendship, and your kindness to my children gives you a kind of paternal right to be informed of every event of consequence to them. I have this moment received an express from Lady Waldegrave, with the Duke of Gloucester's permission to acquaint me with their marriage, which was in 1766. The clergyman who I always thought married them called here this morning, but would not come up, as I had a good deal of company, but pressed to see Mrs. Clement, who was gone to Ham to Lord Dysart. He said he would come again to-morrow. I had not then received the express, but figured to myself that his visit was on account of the marriage, for I have no sort of acquaintance with him. I fancy he will be here to-morrow; and I suppose we are to settle what is proper to be done for the security and proof, for they will not yet awhile make it public, or she take the title; which, probably, will be best till they have taken time to see what the K. will do in it. I think it incumbent upon me to communicate it to you as early as I know it myself; and am very affectionately yours, ED. WALPOLE. P.S. This is confusedly wrote, as I have people with me, and have but just got her letter.—I was a good deal embarrassed at the receipt of this letter. I had opposed the match till I had found it was to no purpose; and had continued steadfastly to avoid having any hand in it. I was determined still not to avail myself of an alliance that I had condemned, nor to pay court to my niece when she had carried her point, since I had declined doing so while her situation was uncertain. On the other hand, as I concluded the Duke of Gloucester would be forbidden the Court, like the Duke of Cumberland, I had no sort of inclination to engage in a quarrel with the King and Queen in support of a cause that I had disapproved, especially as my taking part for my niece would seem to contradict all my declarations. I did not desire to be abandoned by all the world like the Luttrells, and reduced to live almost in solitude with the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, who would not love me for what was passed. Nor was I pleased with the Duke of Gloucester, who had recently mortified my particular friend, Sir Horace Mann, Resident at Florence, by unmerited slights. I determined, therefore, to act as neutral a part as I could, and at once decline all share in the honours or disgrace of my niece."

This marriage, which had taken place in the third year of the fair Maria's widowhood, was followed by many difficulties. The duchess, at first, behaved with engaging modesty; and the letter written by her to her father, in which she put an end to all doubt of the subject, is characterized by her uncle, "as great, pathetic, severe; the language of Virtue in the mouth of Love." She only, so the epistle ran, was anxious to determine a position equivocal and embarrassing—desired to bear no other name than that of Lady Waldegrave: for "If ever I am unfortunate enough to be called Duchess of Gloucester" (she wrote) "there is an end of almost all the comforts which I now enjoy."

But these good resolutions had somewhat of "the poppy" (to use the Poet's simile) in them:—

"She wrote a letter to her sister Dysart that did not breathe total self-denial. That she recounted with pleasure the magnificent presents the Duke had brought her was natural, was not to be blamed. Other expressions intimated further views. She desired her sister to make confidences of her marriage to persons likely not to keep the secret—nor was even this faulty. The vindication of her character justified her eagerness to have the secret, so long and painfully concealed, known. She acquainted Lady Dysart with the Duke's intention of having a levee, which he had never practised, and requested her sister to publish that intention. Of the King, she said, 'he seems not to have courage enough to be angry with the Duke, but he will wound him in the dark, though he dare do no more.' Her letter concluded with desiring Lady Dysart to omit the word Dowager in the subscription of her letters, which, said Lady Waldegrave, I cannot bear! These symptoms convinced me that the natural ambition of her temper would not long be smothered. Lady Waldegrave, with many and grave virtues, was impetuous, and from her childhood ambitious. While a girl, she had often said she would be a lady. Her father, to correct her, asked her 'How that could be, for she was a beggar?'—'Then,' said she, 'I will be a lady-beggar.'

What relations on both sides were to do, shortly became a question of considerable delicacy. The King—yet more the Queen—(to whose covert influence Walpole ascribes many of the vexations which followed) were from first to last reluctant, sullen, and determined, even after proofs positive had been afforded them, to ignore the whole connexion. By the secrecy with which the marriage had been accomplished (without witnesses), the ambitious woman perilled seriously the chance of her children being pronounced legitimate. Royalty, at all events, would have nothing to do with them; and was literally coerced (we are following the story as related here) into sending such official witnesses as were indispensable at a Royal childbirth. When a small Princess, the child of the pair, died, she was not to lie in any Royal vault; so that, in aggravation, her father chose to purvey one for himself in St. George's Chapel, and curious (to bystanders of this period) seem his fightings and fencings on the subject with Keppel, Bishop of Exeter, who was Duchess Maria's brother-in-law—having married Lady Laura Waldegrave, her elder sister. Little less curious, to any one watching the ways and turns of womankind, is the openly-expressed resolution of the Duchess of Gloucester to have as little as possible to do with "that Duchess of Cumberland"—a lady precisely situated like herself. The Court seems to have played "off" and played "on" this antipathy, and to have hurt and ground one brother by patronizing the other—according to Walpole.

On the subject side of the connexion matters did not move much more easily. Duchess Maria seems to have kept a peculiar corner of gratitude for her uncle, who, in his turn, appears to have been able to think for both of them. In all such mixed marriages the question arises *what is to become of the relations?*—As a comment on this, the following scene is, among scenes in memoirs, next to incomparable. Horace Walpole had held himself apart—though, by the way, it may be suggested that there is a curious blank in his memoirs and letters as to his cognizance of the Duke of Gloucester's advances and proceedings till he was bid by her to come and rejoice in the brightening prospects of his favourite:—

"I went directly and found her alone; she received me with the greatest kindness, and insisted

on my treating her as familiarly as ever. The first time I saw her, in July, she had refused to let me kiss her hand, and embraced me. She told me now the Duke thought we should like better to talk the whole over, and they would come to me. She said they had found so many difficulties in her situation that they could go on no longer; that the Duke had tried in vain to bring the King to talk on it; that he owed it to his brother the Duke of Cumberland to own his marriage; and that she could sign no paper legally, not even for receiving her jointure from Lord Waldegrave, but by her real name, Gloucester; and *a propos*, she asked me if I did not approve her signing *Maria Gloucester*, instead of simply *Maria*, in the royal style; for, said she, modestly, 'there was a time when I had no right to any name but *Maria*'. She said the King had told Mr. Legrand that he had not thought they were married; and on Legrand's urging the publicity of her letter to her father, the King said he had heard it, but did not believe what the servants said. He added, that as nobody knew of this notification but he and Legrand, it might still remain undeclared; and Legrand saying that was impossible, the King begged the Duke would take time. Legrand went away, and, returning the next morning, told the King the Duke had taken a day to consider, but could not alter his resolution. The King cried, and protested he had not slept all night, and had not told the Queen, which seemed to be true, for Her Majesty coming into the room just then, he called Legrand into the garden. There he asked him, if he should forgive his brother, what he should say to his children if they had a mind to marry ill. Legrand put him in mind that the Marriage Bill would prevent that. He still talked of not seeing the Duke, though he said it should not be for ever: he should be miserable never to see that brother again whom he loved; but he had never loved Harry. Legrand begged him not to push the Duke too far; he did not know what might be the consequence. The Opposition might bring the affair into Parliament; the Duke might resign his regiment. The King said, God forbid! he could not bear that, but he did not mind what the Opposition could do. The Duchess said the Queen had owned that, when the late Princess Dowager heard of the Duke of Cumberland's marriage and the Duke of Gloucester's danger, she had said to the King that, if William died, she insisted on his never forgiving Harry, though she did afterwards forgive him herself before she died. The Duke of Cumberland had just been to see her, which she said the Duke of Gloucester would return by visiting the Duchess of Cumberland, but did not talk directly of her seeing the latter. As I was determined to be very cautious till I knew the Duke better, I would not advise it, though I thought it wrong that they did not meet. She said the Duke of Cumberland had protested he had suffered very much for the three last days, though he had never cared about himself. I said, the common idea was that the King would forgive him if he would give up the Duchess. 'Pho!' replied she, 'he is eager to get back to Court, and the King has a letter from him to tell him so.' She said she was content to live in the country, and go nowhere; she should only be hated if she appeared at Court. She thought the King now would take no notice (which I doubt), or, at most, forbid the foreign Ministers to visit them. The Duke, she said, would not deal with the Opposition unless the Court persecuted him and her. I begged her to dissuade him from that. I said she knew I had long been inclined to the Opposition (which, I believe, was one great cause of the Duke's coldness to me), but that I never would give her advice that I thought against her interest, however it might suit my inclinations; that she was now a Princess of the blood, and that their interest was inseparable from the Crown, and that I thought they ought, by patience and submission, to endeavour to reconcile the King to them. I asked her if she approved my asking leave to see the Duke before I came? She said, Yes; that she had intended to bid her sister Dysart tell me to come, but the Duke had said it was best to wait and see if I would offer to come. This showed he thought

N° 1627, JАН. 1, '59
XUM

I neglected him. I said, I hoped she knew me too well to suspect I would desert her in her distress; and I told her, at the same time, I should desire Lord Hertford to acquaint the King that I forbore to pay my duty to His Majesty out of respect, as I could not suppose the sight of our family would be agreeable to him just now; that I could not but be sensible of the honour the Duke had done our family, and concluded His Majesty could not expect that her own family would give her up. She approved my conduct, and I shall add presently the letter I wrote. She said the only thing that wounded her was to part with her children by Lord Waldegrave; that she had struggled long, but the Duke had said he could not live with another man's children; that indeed it would scarce be parting with them; that she should take a house for them at Windsor, but four miles from St. Leonard's Hill, and that she should see them oftener than she did now; that one or other of them would always be with her, and that she should give up for the maintenance of them and a proper governess the 1,000/- a year she received for their education; and that to her great comfort Lady Laura, the eldest, was old enough and reasonable enough to comprehend the necessity of what she was doing. She said what made her most doubt the King's forgiving them easily was the aversion he would have to ask of Parliament proper jointures for her and the Duchess of Cumberland. The Duke of Gloucester then came in: I knelt and kissed his hand; he would have had me keep my seat on the sofa by the Duchess, which I declining, he drew an arm-chair for me, and made me sit. He entered on the reasons that had determined him to notify his marriage to the King, which were on the Duchess's account chiefly, and in justice to his brother. He was very civil, though little awkward, but I believe would have been more familiar if I had not behaved with the utmost respect, saying absolutely nothing after I had told him how extremely sensible I was of the honour he had done my niece and the whole family, and how noble I thought his justice to the Duchess. He sought several topics of conversation, and asked me if the King and Queen had been to see my house, as he had heard they intended. I confined myself to monosyllables, that he might not think I assumed the familiarity of a near relation, and made a sign to the Duchess to know when it was proper for me to go away, which she would not let me do. In a few minutes more the Duke, finding I would not be free with him, got up, and said he would go take a ride. The Duchess chid me for my respectfulness, and said it had distressed the Duke, but we should be better acquainted another time. I said I would conform to what I should find agreeable to him, but would take no liberties of myself. In truth, I knew he thought me so anti-monarchic that any freedom at first would have prejudiced him more against me, as supposing I made too light of princes; but though I would never flatter, court, or ask a favour of them, I always piqued myself, when with them, on showing them I knew the distance between them and me. It were a want of sense and good breeding to behave otherwise."

Almost the very next page (note inclusive) is not less remarkable.—

"On the 25th the Duchess of Gloucester came to me. She and the Duchess of Cumberland had met, but in visits most formal and ceremonious. My niece asked me to meet her at her sister Dysart's at Ham, which seemed to mark the Duke neither intended her relations should come to him nor go to them; and Lady Dysart afterwards told me he declared he came to her, not to her Lord. Many instances of his high spirit broke out and made me tremble for his wife. While she was with me I showed her a painted pane of glass, with her and Lord Waldegrave's arms. I asked her if I should have it altered and add the Duke's arms too. She cried out, 'Oh! he will not bear's arms too.'

[†] The Duchess of Cumberland proposed to the Duchess of Gloucester to take a box at the opera together, which the latter declined, and said to me upon the proposal, with wit, 'No, I could not go and smell at the same nossey with her in public'; alluding to King Usher and King Physician in *The Rehearsal*."

my arms placed with his.'—I replied, 'Why, they must be on your coach.'—She said, 'No; the Queen's arms were never joined with the King's.' I desired her to look at the Queen's coach, where she would find they were. These symptoms of his temper did not make me more pleased with the match. However, I said nothing to her, but persuaded her to take all manner of ways to reconcile herself to the King, that she might obtain a jointure, I dreading the prospect for her, considering the precarious state of the Duke's health, and shocked at what they had told me, that one reason for their owning their marriage had been that, as he was extremely in debt, he could not borrow money but on their joint lives. What was to become of her (should he die), with no jointure from him, liable to his debts, and having nothing but her jointure of 1,000/- a year from Lord Waldegrave?"

"High spirit, truly!" Later pages of these Memoirs tell how the "high spirit" aforesaid almost walked upon its lowly knees to have its debts paid,—to find sustenance when health failed it,—to solicit means to go abroad—when the strangely regulated marriage failed to ensure (as Dr. Watts sings) "peace at home."—Throughout the entire maze of these transactions, however, Walpole seems to have behaved loyally and uprightly—times and antecedents considered—both to his relative and to himself. His confessions and notes on the subject—though not unquestionable as evidence—make a curious and significant sequel to the Hervey Memoirs, and can never be overlooked by any one desiring to write the history of the House under whose rule and governance we have the good fortune now to live.

There is no leaving this first volume of these new Memoirs without a word concerning the manner in which they are edited. They have been obviously carefully read and well meditated. A volume of good stories appears in the notes. If any objection can be found to Dr. Doran's editorship, it is that found with Cowley's wit: "He would have pleased us more had he pleased us less." The notes are in fact over rich—and therefore trench perhaps on our enjoyment of the text.

Narrative of Services in the Liberation of Chili, Peru, and Brazil, from Spanish and Portuguese Domination. By Thomas, Earl of Dundonald, G.C.B., Admiral of the Red, Rear-Admiral of the Fleet. 2 vols. (Ridgway.)

It is not easy to fancy a work which should have greater moral interest than this 'Narrative,'—putting, for the moment, all merely literary considerations out of the question. A venerable seaman of eighty-three winters tells us here a part of the story of his distinguished life; not because such a task is the natural occupation of *otiosa senectus*, but from a higher and a sadder inspiration:—"Amidst all the injustice which it has been my lot to sustain, I have ever determined—for the sake of my family, to whom my character is an heir-loom—that no obloquy shall follow me to the grave, for none have I merited. On the day these volumes see the light, this resolution will be partially fulfilled. On that day I shall have completed the eighty-third year of a career strangely chequered, yet not undistinguished; and, therefore, the opinions of either Chilian or Brazilians are now of small moment to me in comparison with a reputation which has been deemed worthy of belonging to history."—Words like these from such a man insensibly raise us out of the region of everyday criticism. We lower the *fascæ* before their dignity. The traditions of our great naval history thicken round us as we listen to them, and recall the stirring events of a life that has extended almost over three generations. Who will not

listen with us to a portion of the story of Cochrane, Lord Dundonald, the victor in half-a-dozen seas,—the first seaman of his class, the last seaman of his school?

Perhaps the rising generation—not overmindful of tradition—are scarcely aware what a survivor of a great naval epoch is still amongst us in the person of this Admiral. He was *at sea*—not alive merely, but afloat, smelling gunpowder and salt water—before Nelson was famous, while the French Revolution was still young, not long after Dr. Johnson had been laid in his grave. Our fathers used to talk about his naval feats as "Lord Cochrane" while they were still at school. He it was who, in the gun-brig *Speedy*, 14 (1801), carried by boarding a Spanish frigate of thirty-two guns off Barcelona,—who, in 1809, attacked the French fleet in Basque Roads, bursting the "boom" with which they were defended by help of a fire-ship, and driving them ashore helpless as harpooned whales. The same Lord Cochrane was not less known as a naval reformer in parliament, in days when such a position involved professional martyrdom. To the consequences of that position, in fact, Chili and Peru owed his services in the war of which these volumes give an account. When the South American provinces revolted against the Crown of Spain, they found Lord Cochrane's brain and sword free to adopt their cause,—thanks to that "Cochrane Trial," of which a wiser age has repudiated the memory and annulled the results. It was in 1818 that he left for Valparaiso,—to seek in the cause of political liberty the same mixture of action and of moral pleasure which the Scots aristocracy to whom he belongs had once sought under the banner of Gustavus Adolphus. The book before us opens with his sailing, that year, in the good ship *Rose*, in which he arrived at Valparaiso on the 28th of November, accompanied by Lady Cochrane and two children. In the middle of revolution the gay people of that brilliant climate could not do without revelry. They welcomed him with even an undue amount of *fêtes*, till he absolutely had to remind Supreme Director O'Higgins (it is good to find a couple of our countrymen freeing a province full of foreigners) that their business was rather to fight than to feast. He hoisted his flag in a newly-captured Spanish frigate in December, and began to prepare for sea. Soon he sailed with a squadron of four ships on an expedition to Peru, and arrived off Callao,—meaning to attack the Spanish squadron there during the Carnival, and give them something harder than *bon-bons* to play with! A fog spoiled this first plan, but shortly afterwards he "stood in" to the port to give them a taste of his quality, and inspire respect for the Chilian squadron as a moral preliminary in the war. Here is a little domestic anecdote of his first South American skirmish:—

"In this action my little boy had a narrow escape. As the story has been told by several Chilian writers somewhat incorrectly, I will recapitulate the circumstances. When the firing commenced, I had placed the boy in my after-cabin, locking the door upon him; but not liking the restriction, he contrived to get through the quarter gallery window, and joined me on deck, refusing to go down again. As I could not attend to him, he was permitted to remain, and, in a miniature midshipman's uniform, which the seamen had made for him, was busying himself in handing powder to the gunners. Whilst thus employed, a round shot took off the head of a marine close to him, scattering the unlucky man's brains in his face. Instantly recovering his self-possession, to my great relief, for believing him killed, I was spell-bound with agony, he ran up to me exclaiming, 'I am not hurt, papa; the shot did not touch me; Jack says the ball is not made that can kill

mamma's boy.' I ordered him to be carried below; but, resisting with all his might, he was permitted to remain on deck during the action."

The Spaniards nicknamed Lord Cochrane "El Diablo" after this, and he did his best to show them that he appreciated the compliment. The mere fighting, however, was the least part of his work, for he had everything to organize out of bad materials before he could fight. Thus he wanted rockets to attack Callao with; his Chilian friends, from economical motives, gave the job of making them to Spanish prisoners, who put plenty of sand and sawdust in! The reader can conceive the disastrous and abortive sputtering of the wretched things when the time came when they ought to have been whistling in—fiery and deadly—among the Spanish shipping. Lord Cochrane changed his plan and went to attack Valdivia,—*à propos* of which we have a memorable observation from him:—

"The enterprise was a desperate one; nevertheless, I was not about to do anything desperate, having resolved that, unless fully satisfied as to its practicability, I would not attempt it. *Rashness, though often imputed to me, forms no part of my composition. There is a rashness without calculation of consequences; but with that calculation, well-founded, it is no longer rashness.*"

Valdivia—the key of an important province—a noble harbour, protected by fifteen forts rich in magazines of stores—fell February 5, 1820. Great was the rejoicing throughout Chili,—the Chilian Minister of Marine huzzaing meanwhile to hide his mean jealous chagrin at the triumph of the foreign noble. Meanwhile, Cochrane went on capturing some minor places, and returned to Valparaiso three weeks after his success. It was the first great hit in the war; and, amongst other results, opened the eyes and purses of capitalists in Europe, and produced a loan of a million sterling.

But the fighting, we repeat, was not Lord Cochrane's worst work. That came to him naturally. He had to struggle with a wretched Government, his seamen mutinous for want of pay and prize-money, and with all that class of obstacles which wears the mind without affording the great stimulus of action to the soul. In May he was forced to offer to resign, which brought the Government to what senses they had:—

"Seeing that I was determined not to be trifled with, and shamed by my offer of applying the estate to the payment of the men, General San Martin, who was appointed to command the military portion of the expedition to Peru, came to Valparaiso in June, and on the 13th of July, the squadron was paid wages in part only, but as I insisted on the whole being liquidated, this was done on the 16th; but without any portion of their prize-money. My share alone of the value of captures made at and previous to the capture of Valdivia was 67,000 dollars, and for this I received the assurance of the Supreme Director that it should be paid to me at the earliest possible moment; upon which I accepted the estate which continued to be pressed upon me, the grant expressing the purpose for which it was given, adding as a reason that 'my name should never cease from the land.' This estate, situated at Rio Clara, was, after my departure from Chili, forcibly resumed by the succeeding Government; and the bailiff, whom I had placed upon it for the purpose of seeing how it could be improved by culture and the introduction of valuable European seeds, was forcibly expelled from its supervision."

We shall hear of San Martin again; and we shall not linger over the sickening story of the conduct of ex-attorney Zenteno, Minister of Marine, with his twopenny jealousies. Lord Cochrane, by pledging his personal faith to foreign seamen, managed to get a squadron manned for a new expedition in August; and sailed, with an "army of liberation" under San

Martin, whose delays were a sad hindrance to Lord Cochrane's vehement eagerness. For it was the habit of mind of this seaman to weigh carefully his plans, but to execute them as in lightning-strokes. The General, again, proceeded with rather more deliberation than was dignified,—a significant (and amusing) kind of fault in war! He could not be induced to land at Callao, where there was something worth doing,—so was sent on to Ancon (a place to the northward of it), while the impatient Admiral fretted in the offing before the first-named port. The truth was, that Lord Cochrane—the only man of genius of the war—was big with an idea. While the transports were disappearing below the horizon line, in the north, he was conning over his plan like a poet over his song,—pacing (may we not suppose) the quarter-deck of the O'Higgins in warlike reverie, while the only two other ships in his little squadron bowled slowly through the warm blue water in her rear.

The plan was to *cut out* the Esmeralda frigate from under the fortifications, a feat still well remembered among seamen, and talked of occasionally in night-watches on forecastle and in waist,—on quiet nights, in fair winds, when the sails want no trimming, and the ship moves noiselessly onwards, alone with the stars and the sea. "*Cuttings-out*" are the Balaklava Charges of naval war, but more fruitful in results than Balaklava Charges. With a handful of men in boats, to snatch a man-of-war out from among batteries—that is the feat,—always a dangerous one, and in this case a pre-eminently dangerous one. The Esmeralda story has been told by several writers, but here we have Lord Dundonald telling it himself; and the reader will not be sorry to have some of the most important passages of his narrative before him:—

"The enterprise was hazardous, for since my former visit the enemy's position had been much strengthened, no less than 300 pieces of artillery being mounted on shore, whilst the Esmeralda was crowded with the best sailors and marines that could be procured, these sleeping every night at quarters. She was, moreover, defended by a strong boom with chain moorings, and by armed blockships; the whole being surrounded by twenty-seven gun-boats; so that no ship could possibly get at her. For three days we occupied ourselves in preparations, still keeping secret the purpose for which they were intended. On the evening of 5th of November, this was communicated to the ships by the following proclamation:—'Marines and Seamen,—This night we are going to give the enemy a mortal blow. To-morrow you will present yourselves proudly before Callao, and all your comrades will envy your good fortune. One hour of courage and resolution is all that is required of you to triumph. Remember, that you have conquered in Valdivia, and be not afraid of those who have hitherto fled from you. The value of all the vessels captured in Callao will be yours, and the same reward in money will be distributed amongst you as has been offered by the Spaniards in Lima to those who should capture any of the Chilian squadron. The moment of glory is approaching, and I hope that the Chilenos will fight as they have been accustomed to do, and that the English will act as they have ever done at home and abroad. COCHRANE.'—On issuing this proclamation, it was stated that I should lead the attack in person, volunteers being requested to come forward, on which the whole of the marines and seamen on board the three ships offered to accompany me. As this could not be permitted, a hundred and sixty seamen and eighty marines were selected, and after dark were placed in fourteen boats alongside the flag-ship, each man armed with cutlass and pistol, being, for distinction's sake, dressed in white, with a blue band on the left arm. The Spaniards I expected would be off their guard, as, by way of *ruse*, the other ships had been sent out

of the bay under the charge of Capt. Foster, as though in pursuit of some vessels in the offing—so that the Spaniards would consider themselves safe from attack for that night. At ten o'clock all was in readiness, the boats being formed in two divisions, the first commanded by my Flag-Capt. Crosbie, and the second by Capt. Guise,—my boat leading. The strictest silence, and the exclusive use of cutlasses were enjoined; so that, as the oars were muffled, and the night dark, the enemy had not the least suspicion of the impending attack. It was just upon midnight when we neared the small opening left in the boom, our plan being well nigh frustrated by the vigilance of a guard-boat, upon which my launch had unluckily stumbled. The challenge was given, upon which, in an undertone, I threatened the occupants of the boat with instant death if they made the least alarm. No reply was made to the threat, and in a few minutes our gallant fellows were alongside the frigate in line, boarding at several points simultaneously. The Spaniards were completely taken by surprise—the whole, with the exception of the sentries, being asleep at their quarters—and great was the havoc made amongst them by the Chileno cutlasses whilst they were recovering themselves. Retreating to the forecastle, they there made a gallant stand, and it was not until the third charge that the position was carried. The fight was for a short time renewed on the quarter-deck, where the Spanish marines fell to a man, the rest of the enemy leaping overboard and into the hold to escape slaughter. On boarding the ship by the main chains, I was knocked back by the butt end of the sentry's musket, and falling on a thole pin of the boat, it entered my back near the spine, inflicting a severe injury, which caused me many years of subsequent suffering. Immediately regaining my footing, I re-asended the side, and when on deck, was shot through the thigh, but, binding a handkerchief tightly round the wound, managed, though with great difficulty, to direct the contest to its close. The whole affair, from beginning to end, occupied only a quarter of an hour, our loss being eleven killed and thirty wounded, whilst that of the Spaniards was a hundred and sixty, many of whom fell under the cutlasses of the Chilenos before they could stand to their arms. ** The uproar speedily alarmed the garrison, who, hastening to their guns, opened fire on their own frigate, thus paying us the compliment of having taken it; though, even in this case, their own men must still have been on board, so that firing on them was a wanton proceeding, as several Spaniards were killed or wounded by the shot of the fortress, and amongst the wounded was Capt. Coig, the commander of the Esmeralda—who, after he was made prisoner, received a severe contusion by a shot from his own party. The fire from the fortress was, however, neutralized by a successful expedient. There were two foreign ships of war present during the contest—the United States frigate Macedonian, and the British frigate Hyperion; and these, as previously agreed on with the Spanish authorities in case of a night attack—hoisted peculiar lights as signals, to prevent being fired upon. This contingency being provided for by us—as soon as the fortress commenced its fire on the Esmeralda, we also ran up similar lights, so that the garrison became puzzled which vessel to fire at; the intended mischief thus involving the Hyperion and Macedonian, which were several times struck, the Esmeralda being comparatively untouched."

More would have been done, the Earl tells us, had not his wounds placed him *hors de combat*, and left Captain Guise in command, who did not attend to his superior's orders. But what was done was nobly done and deeply important. As Capt. Basil Hall justly observes,—

"This loss was a death-blow to the Spanish naval force in that quarter of the world; for, although there were still two Spanish frigates and some smaller vessels in the Pacific, they never afterwards ventured to show themselves, but left Lord Cochrane undisputed master of the coast."

After such a feat as this, any General but

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San Martin would have led his troops against Lima. This worthy, however, kept firing—proclamations to the Peruvians, which he varied by absurd versions of the Esmeralda business, asserting that the army had captured her! It would be ludicrous to read of the spiteful absurdities by which Lord Cochrane was persecuted, were it not that he suffered severely from the conduct of the Chilian potentates, and that to get justice at even this late hour from the South American States is one of the objects of his present publication. If an officer grew mutinous and Cochrane dismissed him, San Martin forthwith made him naval *aide-de-camp* to himself. He would not attack Lima in person, nor give Cochrane troops with which to do it. The Admiral (who could not be idle) carried on the war successfully in the southernmost provinces meanwhile; and on the 6th of July, 1821, the Viceroy of Lima abandoned it from want of provisions. Immediately on this, San Martin performed a *coup-d'état*—on a small scale, no doubt, but of the orthodox stamp—he made himself "Protector of Peru." He then threw off Chili, to which he had sworn fidelity as Captain-General, and summarily declined to have anything to do with the payment of Lord Cochrane's squadron!

The object of this last determination was obvious. He wanted to starve the squadron into revolt, and trusted that the revolt would drive out the Admiral, that Admiral to whom the provinces owed everything. But he did not know his man. Like his countryman, the old Douglas, Earl of Angus, Cochrane knew how to "bell the cat" when need was. While his men, starving upon rotten beef, were grown desperate, he observed large sums of money being embarked in the Protector's yacht Sacramento,—heaps of dollars and sacks of uncoined gold. He "weighed" for Ancon, whether the yacht had gone, and seized the money before witnesses, sparing all private property. With the means thus obtained, he then made a payment of one year's arrears to everybody in the squadron, except himself. "Years of reflection" have not made him repent, he tells us, this rough act of justice; and we know no reason why they should. It is unnecessary to tell the reader that, as a whole, Lord Cochrane's services in Chili and Peru were attended with perfect success.

The second volume is occupied with the Admiral's narrative of the operations by which, on the other side of the continent, he performed for Brazil against Portugal the same service which he had performed for Chili and Peru against Spain. In January, 1823, he hauled down his flag, finding the squadron being gradually and artfully taken from him by the Chilian Government, and accepted an offer from Brazil, where Don Pedro, first "Regent" and then "Constitutional Emperor" of the country, was in want of a fleet to save his Northern provinces (Babia, &c.), occupied at that time by a Portuguese force, and protected on the seaboard by a Portuguese squadron. He was not long in taking the sea against this last, and with his usual success, which his mere name aided incalculably. We find him (vol. ii. p. 53) chasing a squadron with his single flag-ship—a most agreeable spectacle to the patriotic British reader! When they turned in force, the Admiral saved himself by his seamanship; when they ran, again he dashed in among them at nightfall, and smashed them in detail. We commend the whole story to the curious. They will learn there what one man of the right character can do.

On the whole, the matter of the second volume is scarcely so interesting as that of the first. It is not that the work achieved is less

considerable, for everything was done that was wanted,—Bahia compulsorily evacuated, Maranham and Para brought to submission,—and so on throughout. But the case did not demand the *dashing* kind of work performed in Chili and Peru; and there is even a larger proportion than before of those struggles with weak or wicked officials which are as dull in the reading as they are vexatious in the enduring. We regret to say that, in one particular, what Lord Dundonald has to tell us in volume second, is only too like what he has already told us in volume first. The Government of Brazil is still under heavy pecuniary obligations to him,—has also (like Chili) done something, but also (still like Chili) delays to do more. Some of our statesmen—Lords Palmerston and Lansdowne among them—seem to have exerted themselves in the injured Admiral's behalf. We know not whether the opinion of the British public can do anything to aid such exertions in the eyes of the States whose honour is involved in this matter. But we do know what that opinion will be as these volumes become known; and that the general sympathy with Lord Dundonald's misfortunes will be as great as the general admiration of his genius and pride in his fame.

Drawn up by the aid of a mass of papers, at a long distance of time, and at a far advanced period of life,—drawn up, it would seem, with the help of a coadjutor, Mr. Earp,—this is not a work to be measured by merely literary standards—to be criticized by the rules of form and style. But the moral, the personal interest, will carry all readers along. There is an indescribable air of sincerity about it,—a painfully eager wish to make all perfectly clear, struggling against the consciousness of continued ill-usage, which is affecting in such a man, and which will prepossess all readers of nice discriminations in favour of him and his cause. We very heartily commend it to all who respect our good word; and we trust that the old sailor-Earl will live to give us (as he promises) a further portion of his autobiography,—that is, of the history of England. We ought to mention, in conclusion, that he dedicates his book to the Marquis of Lansdowne, in acknowledgment of a friendship to which the Marquis has been true through good and evil report for many a long year.

The Philosophy and Politics of Béranger—[Philosophie et Politique, &c.] By Paul Boiteau. (Paris, Perrotin; London, Jeffs.)

THE fate which has attended Béranger since his death is hardly the one, we apprehend, which he desired. Though he might not have echoed the affected wish of the English boy-poet, who professed to aspire to

—steal from the world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie,—

the French singer entreated that there might be no pomps and orations about his grave, having withdrawn solicitously and systematically from every responsibility and honour pressed on him in his declining years,—such as might claim from him capacities of seriously influencing opinion or of managing affairs. He grew old in retirement; he died in simplicity. Yet observe how almost from the first hour after the breath left his body he has been wrangled for, paraded, made an object of notoriety, controversy, sale and barter; and this not merely by distant persons, careless of aught save their own self-illustration, but by confidential friends,—and, we regret to observe, by legatees and heirs.—It might be natural for M. Boiteau, as the assistant of M. Perrotin, (to whom Béranger's posthumous works were con-

fided,) to correct misstatements hastily put out by Madame Colet and M. Lapointe, and De Lamartine and Dumas, [vide *Athen.* No. 1611, p. 329]; but there was no need that, having done so in the book just referred to, the corrector should himself set up in business as lecturer, and after having (as he thinks) saved Béranger, should commence selling him like the rest. Yet this is done in the last, dullest pamphlet on the great *chansonnier*, which is here laid before us. Under pretext of preaching up Béranger's philosophies, political opinions, and religious aspirations, M. Boiteau plunges into the deepest subjects; and prattles about divinity, revelation, human progress, &c. with a fluency which (to speak in gentlest phrase) his victim would have repudiated. Béranger's own letter to De Lamennais, (the one sufferable page in this new book,) one, probably, never meant to be published, ought to have warned Béranger's heirs and executors from any attempt to drape him, to theorize, to instal him as an expounder or a representative. There (the subject not admitting of paraphrase in these columns) the poet confesses to a child's blind and submissive prostration, so far as his own religious instincts, ideas, and hopes are concerned,—recognizing the while, as a truth, that there must exist in life and humanity men as well as children—scythe and sword as well as interlacing garland, and the cord which can draw the mortal upward to the skies. Such a letter (invaluable, if received as part of a correspondence, showing its writer in his "robe of intimacy,"—willing, when thus clad, to talk, not to teach,) becomes intolerable if small people are to be allowed to spell out its letters, to lecture from the dots above its 'i's, and to interpret the writer's fancies, feelings, dreams of the moment,—whether for or against Right Divine, or Protest, Authority, or Private Judgment. Let us hope that M. Perrotin, in the interest of Béranger, will further spare us the ideas of futurity or present administration of society, which his shop (or back shop) can concoct; and allow us soon to read for ourselves the Correspondence of the Poet, without gloss, or apology, or pretence of reconciliation, or aught that is comprehended in the racy new American phrase—"a sensation ticket."

Life of John Milton, narrated in connexion with the Political, Ecclesiastical, and Literary History of his Time. By David Masson. Vol. I. 1608—1639. (Macmillan & Co.)

Milton's fame is fixed and imperishable. Although no university has yet done itself honour by worthily honouring him, the consent of two centuries has bracketed his name with that of Shakespeare. By the audience he longed for—the fit and the few—from Dryden to Wordsworth, his works have been examined and approved and found immortal. A few political bigots, indeed, who cannot be moved by any concord or majesty of sound—a few divines, better skilled in the jargon of theology than the progress of harmony and numbers—have raised a little fretful outcry; but the bard himself has been unaffected, and has serenely awaited the justification of time.

The genius of Milton impresses the mind like the first sight of a cathedral. Vastness and height are its characteristics. Upon the horizon it is seen, far off, looming solidly and blindly out of the mist. We approach through a quaint dark street, full of jutting lines and angles,—a Latin inscription or two,—now and then a grotesque figure,—and a somewhat Pagan conceit. Thence we pass under two or three low archways hung with masses of ivy, and catch sight of smooth lawns and nooks of bright garden,

and the gleam of a translucent river, down which we lose ourselves in woods. At a sudden turn we come full upon the main structure, calm and grand and time-defying. The magnificence of the conception, the massive foundations on which it rests, the height and breadth and solidity of the building, the purity of workmanship and detail, its austere and gloomy grandeur, all strike us. We are in the presence of a great Maker, whose thoughts have passed the bounds of space and time, and "wander through eternity." Each part seems to have risen to its appointed place, as if to the sound of dulcet harps and angelic harmonies. How lightly the clustered spire springs up, forgetting its terrestrial nature, and partaking, like a flower, the higher it ascends, the perfectness of the surrounding sky. What a miracle of skill is the roof, "self-poised, scooped into ten thousand cells, where light and shade abide!" As we pause, delighted and bewildered with the rhythm of infinite lines and figures, with the glow and blazon, the wealth of ornament shed from countless windows and windowlets, the full swell of the organ bursts upon the ear, pealing forth, in one magnificent anthem,—

Of Man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe.

Yet if the illustration which we have used describe the Author of that glorious and pillar-like 'Hymn on the Nativity,' which some twenty years later expanded into the majestic structure of 'Paradise Lost,' it does not portray the poet who anticipated the bloom of Claude in the landscapes of 'L'Allegro' and 'Penseroso,'—who made beauty more beautiful than itself in 'Comus,'—who immortalized friendship in 'Lycidas,'—who turned Petrarch's love-sonnet into an heroic psalm,—who vindicated for ever for the English people the rights of a free religion, speech and press,—and bequeathed to the world, for its perpetual reverence, the name and character of Milton. If Shakspere, as a poet, occupies a wider range, and rules absolute over all the realms of love and pity, fear and terror, the man Milton, in that dark and wild century, his light put out ere half his time, bating not a jot of heart or hope, but steering right onward towards truth and liberty, is a spectacle for gods to consider,—as his life is, indeed, the grandest of poems. Never dwelt a fairer soul in a fairer body. The pure love-line which old Chaucer fancied, was realized in the youth of Milton.

We have a dream of the boy as he sits, on a Christmas-eve, among his verses and books—all he lives for (*mea vita libri*),—in his little chamber above the scrivener's office in Bread Street, his "light" seen far twinkling down the street as the clock of St. Paul's strikes the midnight hour. We spy him in the school-room, somewhat darkened by the shadow of the Cathedral, among the flock of "pigeons," busily cramming sections of Latin and Greek under the pleasant eye of philological Master Gill. Then freshman and undergraduate Milton, *e coll. Christ. Cantab. pensionario*, appears with "even step and musing gait," in the trim college garden, or "all his rapt soul sitting in his eyes," as he wonders at the "high embowed roof" and the "storied windows richly dight," while the organ is pealing forth "an anthem clear" in famous King's College Chapel. Then we have a sight of a wayward poet, flinging off cap and gown, and what no "youth of my ability can brook," and flying to the "paternum rus," and the soft elm-shadows of Horton, at that time far pleasanter than the bare flats by the reedy Cam, where the trees offer no poetic shelter. Is not the sweet time of the year coming up

the shallow brooks and the daisy-pied meadows which skirt the Colne? Cannot you hear the nightingale on a still evening singing on the "bloomy spray"? Do not shepherds feed their flocks and dance with maidens to the "jocund rebecks"? May not the Chiltern hills stand for Mænalus, and Buckinghamshire be a kind of Arcadia? Royal Windsor, with its towers and battlements, is seen thence through the tufted trees waving along the landscape a hue of romance; and within a two hours' ride lies the glittering, humming world of London, with its bookshops, its music, its theatres, and saffron Hymen at times masquerading along the streets.

Ere long we shall have another view of Master John Milton. No longer kneeling in his white surplice in college chapel, nor altercating with a churlish dean, nor effectually silencing the taunts of the malapert Christ's men, who call him "lady" and "maid." That same John Milton may have a poet's eye for a vermeil-tinted cheek,—he may play with golden tresses,—he can weep over the fate of a gentle lady,—or a sister's baby "withered like silken primrose,"—he may pen a sonnet to a nightingale,—there is a chord in his heart which will vibrate at tidings of German or Italian fighting for liberty of science or religion, but he lacks the courage to enter the Church, and "subscribe slave." From this date Milton is poet and Reformer. We shall have views of him "on the smooth enamelled green," when the avenue of branching elms is lit up for a birthday or wedding-night at Harefield,—then on a Michaelmas night, when he "takes the likeness of a swain," in the service of the house of Bridgewater, and summons Sabrina, with the braid of lilies in her hair, from under "the cool translucent wave." We spy him on a certain April day, when the house at Horton is dark, and the bell is heard "swinging slow" from the old church in which John Milton is to look his last upon the coffin of his mother. On that event there is no elegy. A few months, and then "who would not weep for Lycidas—young Lycidas—who has not left his peer?" Yet, does the world weep, or is only the University world in particular dimly conscious of a little volume of 'Obsequies to the Memorie of Mr. Edward King,' Anno Dom. 1638, one of which is contributed by a certain "J. M.?"

We must cross the sea now, if we are to follow Milton with an ambassador's letter and good advice (*il viso sciolto—i pensieri stretti*), to Paris, thence by the blue Rhône, by the splash of the Mediterranean waves, and across the hills to Nice and Genoa, to Pisa, Florence, and Rome. We may visit Galileo in the Villa d'Arcetri,—note the autumnal leaves that strew the brooks in Vallombrosa,—muse over Venice and Naples,—and not speak, unless asked, what we think. The news of an outbreak for liberty and religion makes it fit for no worthy poet or man to stand aloof,—and Milton once more sets a firm foot in England. When he has found a house for himself and his books, we shall see him make a precipitate journey to Forest Hill, and bring home a bride, for whose society he will not neglect his books, nor in whose looks find his sweetest garden. Let Mistress Milton hasten back to her ribbons, her junketing and Royalist friends, and leave the world to make the acquaintance of her "harsh and choleric" husband—Latin secretary, Puritan poet, the vindicator of the rebellious people of England, the foe of episcopacy, the advocate of a free press,—Milton, waxing grander as the evil days come and the evil tongue rail,—Milton, the prophet, gathering strength from his Hebrew Bible, and driving

away from his hearth and pure neighbourhood a throng of evil spirits by psalms seraphic as those of David or Isaiah. Let us hear his prayer over those

— slaughtered saints
Whose bones lie scattered on the Alpine mountain cold,—

watch the light fading from his outward eye, but to flash more fully the thought of Paradise on that inward eye, which makes the bliss of his grand solitude. Finally, let us see him in the calm autumn days, at the porch of his house in Bunhill Fields, approaching his sunset,—his realmless eyes closed, though his fame is waxing into brightness, and his august name beginning to sound through the world everlasting.

England has need of Milton, and we know of no time more fitting than the present to mark, learn, and ponder his deeds. The facts of his life lie in small compass, and we need not go far to seek for them. The best memoir of Milton, as of any true poet, is to be found in his own writings. We shall gather what he was from his letters, from his favourite books, from what his kinsfolk and acquaintance had to say, the poets and critics of his time, for or against him,—the Latin poems and exercises will exhibit Milton in the bud, the lover of letters, music, and poetry,—the 'L'Allegro' and 'Penseroso' will be fragrant with the poetical flower,—we shall spy into his heart and life in the 'Defensio Secunda,'—what he thinks of religion and marriage 'An Apology' and 'A Defence' will tell us,—what friends he has, what personal delights, what politics, will appear from his Sonnets, his 'Areopagitica,' his treatise on Reformation,—the fruit of all that he has seen and heard, a harvest of ripe wisdom and immortal beauty, he will set before us in 'Paradise Lost,'—and his soul's eye not dim, though his earlier strength is abated, we shall read in the 'Agonistes' of his "peace of mind, all passion spent." Let us read Aubrey's notes in the Ashmolean, Wood's Memoirs, the Memoir of Philips, a few notes of Richardson—cast our eyes over the State Papers—consider a contract drawn up by Samuel Simmons and agreed to by John Milton; let us walk round the garden of Christ's, Cambridge—visit Horton Church, and take a copy of the register—ramble through Bread Street, Holborn, Smithfield, St. Bride's Churchyard, Aldersgate, Park Street, Westminster, Bunhill Fields, and enter St. Giles's, Cripplegate, and we shall have material enough for a Life of Milton.

The biography before us is the first independent Life of Milton which has ever appeared. Prefixed to the poet's works there have been short summaries, notes, outlines, rather than full-length portraits of Milton, apart from the chief literary and political actors of his age. It has been the object of the present biographer to supply what, many years ago, Southey felt to be still "a desideratum in our literature." He has endeavoured not only to sketch Milton such as he was, the representative poet and literary man of his day, but to exhibit him "in connexion with the more notable phenomena in which his life was cast, its state politics, its ecclesiastical variations, its literature and speculative thought." Notwithstanding the labours of his predecessors in the same field, Mr. Masson justly believed that there was much historical material altogether unnoticed and unexamined,—some, too, which might be confessedly better arranged,—some which, if searched, would yet repay a biographer's skill, and win everywhere for his work a ready perusal. The age of Milton, above all, was far from being familiarly known in its internal aspects. The contention between the old and the new—passing from politics and religion, and casting a sombre, if not a sad, colour over

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manners and literature—had not been nicely and analytically distinguished.

Then the civil life of the time, school life, university life, manners legal and clerical, would furnish excellent accessories to such a biography. Figures of the later Elizabethan men whom Milton might have seen would fill the foreground:—the men of the Apollo Club, the wits, poets, divines of “the tribe of Ben,”—the Spenserians, metricalists, humourists,—the lawyers, scholars, antiquaries, essayists, pamphleteers, printers, and publishers of the day,—the University dons and officials,—and, finally, the leading theologians and prelates. Not to speak of town and village scenes in the England of the seventeenth century,—peep into the alleys of London, into University men's rooms, scriveners' offices, and inn-chambers,—we should be conducted to Ireland, Scotland—follow Englishmen to settlements and factories abroad, to Holland, Italy, and even to the America of that day. Such an historical area does Mr. Masson's Life of Milton occupy. There is scarce a page which does not bear witness of careful antiquarian research and minute as well as extensive reading. The biographer has large acquaintance with his period, deep love for his author. Though not a Cantab, he can enter into the feelings of an English university life,—can be just to a Royalist as well as a Puritan, to Churchman as well as a Presbyterian,—can admire George Herbert's sanctity in the Church as well as respect John Milton's without it; and though, on the whole, no partisan of Laud, can yet at times speak as though he loved him.

Full of interest as this work without doubt is, it is to be regretted that Mr. Masson's researches have diverted him occasionally from the legitimate biographical course down that mighty stream of historic tendency which now wafts an author completely round the world. The error of the book is its fulness—it is too inclusive. Mr. Masson omits nothing. He goes into heraldry, genealogy, points of law, theology, university exercises, philosophy, Art-poetry, political history. During twenty-five pages we seek for Milton among his ancestors and cannot resolve him. After following him through a very pleasantly described home life and school-days, we arrive with him at college, and lose him among the “Heads of Houses, the Proctors, Vice-Chancellor, a Catalogue of Students,” and 200 pages of descriptive and antiquarian matter upon Cambridge. Then ‘Church and Government,’ and ‘A Survey of English Literature,’ occupy two succeeding chapters. After which Milton reappears, and the narrative flows on with his tranquil life at Horton, the period of the ‘Arcades,’ ‘Comus,’ ‘L'Allegro,’ and ‘Penseroso’; after which we travel to Italy, and leave him at Rome writing Latin verses to a fair Mantuan cantatrice, Leonora Baroni, the Jenny Lind of her day. In these 752 pages of the first volume thirty-one years of Milton's life are narrated.

Milton was born in Bread Street, in famous London town, on the 9th of December 1608. Father and mother came from Oxfordshire, within a few miles off the spot from which, in later years, the poet's wife came. Neither of the two appears to have had property. John Milton the elder displeased his father by taking to Protestantism, and adopting the profession of a scrivener in consequence. The house where the poet saw the light we cannot find now, any more than the Black Spread Eagle which hung over the scrivener's door. The site, however, is clear:—

“Walk down Bread Street, therefore, on the left hand from Cheapside; single out the now anonymous little court which lies at the depth of

three houses from that thoroughfare; realize that as having been Strype's ‘Black Spread Eagle Court’ of 1720 and 1754; then again demolish in imagination this little ‘Black Spread Eagle Court,’ and rear in its room an edifice chiefly of wood and plaster; finally, fancy this house with its gable end to the street, ranging with others of similar form and materials on one side, and facing others of similar form and materials opposite; and you have the old Spread Eagle in which Milton was born as vividly before you as it is ever likely to be!”

The street was in the heart of Cockaigne, right under the musical uproar of Bow bells. The street was occupied by inns and by shops, above which the tradesmen lived. The Mermaid tavern was in Bread Street,—and Mr. Masson has a pleasant fancy, that Shakspeare, passing to the club, on his last visit to London in 1614, “may have passed a fair child of six playing at his father's door; and, looking down at him kindly, have thought of a little grave in Stratford churchyard, and the face of his own dead Hamnet.” Milton had a sister, Anne, and a younger brother, Kit—afterwards of the Temple

—and if we picture the boy as he was painted by Jansen, we have a fair view of the family. The mother was a good and charitable woman, of rather weak sight,—the scrivener keen and clear-eyed, and musically inclined. There were madrigals, composed by the elder Milton, famous in his day; and to him we owe York tune and Norwich, still sung in English churches, and chimed by English church-bells. The scrivener's friends were bookish. Of them were Humphrey Lownes, the printer (who may have lent Milton Sylvester's ‘Du Bartas’), and John Lane, quite unknown now, but then valued by his friends as the author of several MS. poems. A Scotch Puritan schoolmaster named Thomas Young comes in to teach, now and then.

The scene then changes to St. Paul's, to which Milton moves before 1620. Of masters, exercises, the boys of St. Paul's, Mr. Masson gives an attractive picture. Milton remained at the school from 1620—*Æt. 11*—to the winter or spring of 1624–5, at which time he was 16. At this date he was admitted, along with fourteen other students, a lesser pensioner of Christ's, Cambridge. Among University students, at that time, were quaint, but not old, Fuller, Waller, and Randolph.

Among the dons were Thomas Bainbrigge, of whom it is ascertained that he was Master of Christ's. The tutors were Mr. William Chappell, who disputed so subtly as on one occasion to make his opponent faint—and Mr. Gell, “a learned man, but of somewhat mystical notions, who died leaving some foolish sermons.” Milton's rooms are still shown at Christ's, where in later times Wordsworth for the first and last time fell under the influence of Bacchus. We cannot delay in college chapel, nor visit the town of Cambridge, or even look at the “tulips” as the dandy fellow-commoners were called. The great fact of the University period is, that in the Lent term of 1625–6 Milton had a quarrel with his tutor—Bainbrigge as Master of the College had to interfere—and, as his biographer puts it, “the consequence was that Milton withdrew, or was sent from College in circumstances equivalent to rustication.” In the Easter term of the same year he returned and changed his tutor. Yet not only with dons Milton altercated, he held his own with the students, as the following passage shows:—

“Why seem I then too little of a man? Is there no regard for Priscian? Do pert grammaticasters thus attribute the ‘propria quo maribus’ to the feminine gender? Is it because I never was able to quaff huge tankards lustily, or because my hands never grew hard by holding the plough, or because I never, like a seven years' herdsman, laid myself

down and snored at mid-day; in fine, perchance, because I never proved my manhood in the same way as those debauched blackguards? I would they could as easily doff the ass as I can whatever of the woman is in me.”

What Milton was in opinion and thought appears from a noble prologue, to which Mr. Masson has done service by calling attention.—

“Is Ignorance the more blessed state? By no means! * * Where no Arts flourish, where all learning is exterminated, there there is no trace of a good man; but cruelty and horrid barbarism stalk abroad. I call as witness to this fact not one state, or province, or race, but Europe, the fourth part of the globe, over the whole of which some centuries past all good Arts had perished. The presiding Muses had then long left all Academies; blind inertness had invaded and occupied all things; nothing was heard in the schools except the impudent dogmas of most stupid monks; the profane and formless monster, Ignorance, having forsooth obtained a gown, capered boastfully through our empty reading-desks and pulpits, and through our squalid cathedrals. Then piety languished, and Religion was extinguished and went to wreck, so that even but lately, and scarce even at this day, has there been a recovery from the heavy wound.”

In behalf of the awkwardness of men of learning, we have this delicious bit of pleading.—

“Now, many complain that most very learned men are harsh, uncourteous, of ill-ordered manners, with no grace of speech for the conciliation of men's minds. I admit, indeed, that one who is almost wholly secluded and immersed in studies, is readier to address the gods than men—whether because he is generally at home with the gods, but a stranger and pilgrim in human affairs, or because the mind, having been made larger by the constant contemplation of divine things, and so wriggling with difficulty in the straits of the body, is less clever at the more exquisite gestures of salutation (*ad exquisitiores salutationum gesticulationes*). But if worthy and suitable friendships are formed by such a person, no one cherishes them more sacredly; for what can be imagined pleasanter or happier than those colloquies of learned and most grave men, such as the divine Plato is said to have often largely held under his plane-tree,—colloquies worthy, surely, to be received with the attentive silence of the whole human race flocking to hear! But to talk together stupidly, to humour one another in luxury and lusts—this is the friendship of Ignorance, or truly rather the ignorance of Friendship.”

Here is Milton as he was when he left Cambridge, in July 1632, at the age of three-and-twenty:—

“In stature, therefore, at least, he was already whatever he was to be. ‘In stature,’ he says himself at a later period, when driven to speak on the subject, ‘I confess I am not tall, but still of what is nearer to middle height than to little; and what if I were of little; of which stature have often been very great men both in peace and war—though why should that be called little which is great enough for virtue?’ This is precise enough; but we have Aubrey's words to the same effect. ‘He was scarce so tall as I am,’ says Aubrey; to which, to make it more intelligible, he appends this marginal note:—‘Q. Quot feet I am high? Resp. of middle stature.’—i.e. Milton was a little under middle height. ‘He had light brown hair,’ continues Aubrey,—putting the word ‘brown’ (*auburn*) in the margin by way of synonym for ‘light brown’;—‘his complexion exceeding fair; oval face; his eye a dark grey.’ As Milton himself says that his complexion, even in later life, was so much ‘the reverse of bloodless or pallid,’ that, on this ground alone, he was generally taken for ten years younger than he really was, Aubrey's ‘exceeding fair’ must mean a very delicate white and red. Then, he was called ‘the lady’ in his College—an epithet which implies that, with this unusually delicate complexion, the light brown hair falling to his ruff on both sides of his oval face, and his slender and elegant rather than massive or powerful form, there was a certain prevailing air of the feminine in his look. The

feminine, however, was of that peculiar sort,—let connoisseurs determine what it is,—which could consist with clear eyes of a dark grey and with a ‘delicate and tunable voice,’ that could be firm in the low tenor notes and carry tolerably sonorous matter. And, lady-like as he was, there was nothing effeminate in his demeanour. ‘His deportment,’ says Wood, ‘was affable, his gait erect and manly, bespeaking courage and undauntedness.’ Here Wood apparently follows Milton’s own account, where he tells us that in his youth he did not neglect ‘daily practice’ with his sword, and that he was not so ‘very slight,’ but that ‘armed with it, as he generally was, he was in the habit of thinking himself quite a match for any one, even were he much the more robust, and of being perfectly at ease as to any injury that any one could offer him, man to man.’

By way of contrast and as an example of Mr. Masson’s writing, take a portrait of the chairman of the Apollo—imperial Ben :

“Such was Ben’s literary life as he and others could look back upon it from the year 1632. He was then in his fifty-ninth year; no longer the lean thin youth that he had been six-and-thirty years before, but a huge unwieldy veteran, weighing twenty stone all but two pounds, with grey hair, and a visage, never of captivating beauty, now scarred and seamed and blotted into a sight among ten thousand.

My mountain belly and my rocky face,

is his own well-known description. Latterly, too, this corpulent mass had been sadly wrecked by disease. Palsy had attacked him in 1628, and, though still able to move about, ‘in a coat like a coachman’s with slits under the arm-pits,’ he was more frequently to be seen in bed or in his big straw chair in his house in Westminster—the house under which you pass,’ says Aubrey, ‘as you go out of the churchyard into the old palace.’ Here, according to all the authorities, his style of house-keeping was none of the most orderly. His children by his first marriage were dead or dispersed; he had never been of economic habits; and now that he was old his besetting sin of Canary had grown upon him. ‘His pension, so much as came in,’ says Izaak Walton, ‘was given to a woman that governed him, with whom he lived and died, and neither he nor she took much care for next week, and would be sure not to want wine; of which he usually took too much before he went to bed, if not oftener and sooner.’ In and about 1632 he seems to have been in deeper distress than usual—confined to his house for some months, if not actually bedridden; and in great want of money. ‘Nov. 10, 1631: It is ordered by this Court [the Court of Aldermen] that Mr. Chamberlain shall forfeit to pay any more fee or wages unto Benjamin Johnson, the City’s Chronologer, until he shall have presented unto this Court some fruits of his labours in that his place.’ In Ben’s poems and correspondence there are allusions to the loss of this part of his income. ‘Yesterday,’ he says in a letter to the Earl of Newcastle, ‘the barbarous Court of Aldermen have withdrawn their chandlerly pension for verjuice and mustard, 33l. 6s. 8d.;’ and he goes on to solicit the Earl’s bounty against Christmas. And so in an ‘Epistle Mendicant’ to the Lord Treasurer Weston :

Disease, the enemy, and his engineers,
Want, with the rest of his concealed compars,
Have cast a trench about me now five years,
And made those strong approaches by false braies,
Redoubts, half-moons, horn-works, and such close ways,
The Muse not peeps out one of hundred days;

But lies blocked up and straitened, narrowed in,

Fixed to the bed and boards, unlike to win

Health, or scarce breath, as she had never been.

—And yet, poor, palsied, mendicant, and gross with wine as he was, Ben was an actual and no nominal laureate. The very men from whom he borrowed feared him and felt his weight. When he was able to go out and roll his ill-girt body down Fleet Street, heads would be turned to look at him or raised for the honour of his recognition; and with the exception of Dryden at a still later time, and of Samuel Johnson at a still later, no man can be named who, while he lived, exercised so impiously the sovereignty of literary London.”

A fair and poetical place is Horton, with its ivy-clad Norman church, the yew-trees in the churchyard, and the tradition of Milton’s house and the favourite apple-tree under which he wrote. Among other commendable passages in this volume, the reader will observe portraits of Selden, Wotton, Hales, Chillingworth and Godolphin. Scotchmen may object to Mr. Masson’s view of Scotch Presbyterianism.

NEW NOVELS.

Maiden Sisters: a Tale. By the Author of ‘Dorothy.’ (Parker & Son.)—This story belongs to the miniature school of painting of human life. At first, the reader will be apt to feel impatient at the short steps and slow pace with which the story moves along,—at the trivial details and long conversations of a commonplace mind; but there is a delicacy of handling, and an air of truth and reality which gradually gains on the reader’s interest,—there is a touching grace in the character of Ellen, the heroine. Her inexperience and her childlike nature,—the mistakes and misconceptions which overcloud the bright promise of her happiness and gather round her as in a painful dream, which she has no power to dispense,—and the patient gentleness with which she resigns herself to suffer without complaint or reproach, are all beautifully drawn and worked out. We are not fond of melancholy stories. We do not like to have our hearts made to ache over suffering for which there is no help; especially when that suffering might all have been saved by a grain of common sense or half-a-dozen frank-spoken words. It is bad enough in real life to be conscious of the ‘might have been’ which would have made so many events better in their result, without being pursued by the fatality in works of fiction, where there is always a last chapter mercifully open for explanation and escape from imminent danger. Nevertheless, for those who do not dislike to have their heart made sad by a sorrowful story, ‘Maiden Sisters’ may be recommended.

Florence: a Tale. By M. E. Hammond. (Blackwood.)—An extremely absurd story written in perfect seriousness. It is rather vulgar, too, as well as absurd; and has no resemblance to anything ever seen or heard of in this world. The reader may have an occasional laugh,—but it will be of his own finding, and not intentionally furnished by the author: as, for instance—One of the young ladies in the story, having a father with the traditional flinty heart, leaves home one morning in a clandestine manner before breakfast, and proceeds across the mountains to a small Welsh village, where she is to be married in the strictest privacy; but under the ‘large, grey cloak,’ in which she had enveloped herself, she carries a wreath of orange-blossoms and a superb bridal veil, with which she is admired in the vestry previous to the ceremony.—Another of the heroines having come to an understanding with her lover, tears herself out of the stage embrace with the exclamation of—‘The dinner-bell! and I am not dressed!’ Such books are waste of time to write, and worse than waste of time to read. They are quite unworthy of the art of printing.

Struggles in Falling. By John Henry Lester. (Bentley.)—‘Struggles in Falling’ is an awkward and not an attractive title, and it is the prelude to a story which is as incoherent and unreal as a bad dream. We should judge it to be the first work of the author from the want of skill in putting together his story; there are evidences of talent, but it is talent that requires great cultivation before it can do any good. The title is singularly inappropriate. The hero, Charles Vesey, is a young man endowed with fatal fascinations and the appearance of possessing many virtues, but they are all rendered delusive by the taint of self-indulgence which prevents him from ever being able to find in his heart to disappoint himself. He never resolutely struggles or sets his face against any temptation; he plays with it, makes a show of going away from it, but he never removes quite out of its reach, and he yields to it with a grand air as though it were the act of an indomitable will, rather than a

criminal weakness. There is both skill and knowledge of human nature shown in the working of this insidious self-deception; but the incidents of the story are quite out of the jurisdiction of the court of common sense; it turns chiefly on mesmerism, and we are treated to miracles and mysteries of which no criticism is possible; they are on a par with the use of chloroform, and are not legitimate in a work of fiction, which is, or ought to be, a work of Art. If the whole story were not perfect nonsense, we should protest against it as unhealthy, enervating and immoral in its tendency, as setting forth the strange doctrine that a belief in the unknown powers of mesmerism can release a rational being from the duty and responsibility of self-government;—as well go back at once to the old astrological superstition of hostile stars and the fatal ascendancy of Jupiter, Mars or Saturn. The book is not sufficiently well done to be dangerous but for that, no thanks to the author. Mr. Lester has the ability to write something much better, and we hope he will do so.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Alma Matres. By Megathymus Splene, B.A., Oxon. (Hogg & Sons.)—We are reminded of the old story of what the farmer said to an academic, who boasted of having studied at two Universities. ‘Sir,’ said he, ‘I once had a calf who sucked two cows; and I observed that the more he sucked, the greater calf he grew.’ Mr. Splene, as he calls himself, lets us know that he studied at University College, at Oxford, at Munich, and at Bonn, besides being connected, more or less, with Paris. He ought, therefore, to be a man of finished education,—but we doubt it. He is obviously clever by nature, and writes smartly; but he writes mostly about by-gone things. According to his account of Oxford, the tutors are fast-drinking imbeciles; the students either very fast or very slow. He does not state general conclusions; but all his pictures are of this kind. Now, though it may be possible that at any time within the last twenty years the originals of these pictures have existed, the representation, as applied to the whole University, is an absurdity. We suspect that Mr. Splene is a B.A. of a great many years’ standing, if a B.A. at all. He says some good things, makes some useful suggestions, tells some good stories, and paints some good caricatures,—but the whole is to a false end. The majority of the students and of the tutors are left wholly undescribed.

Deborah’s Diary: a Sequel to ‘Mary Powell.’ (Hall, Virtue & Co.)—Some score of volumes by this clever author are now before the world, showing that neither herself nor her public is tired of masquing. Critics, however, may be excused if they begin to yawn at the sight of the antiquated outside, and the counterfeit orthography within, of books like this.—Even such adroit personifiers as Mrs. German Reed and Mrs. Barney Williams, after they have introduced half-a-dozen new characters, voices, catchwords, and dresses, find it expedient to withdraw ‘from town’ for awhile, till curiosity shall begin to revive, and their cleverness, by being a little forgotten, shall lose something of its apparent mechanism.—If we fancy that popularity and production are making the author of ‘Mary Powell’ careless, the fault may in part arise from her frequency of appeal;—and yet who can pass such an entry in ‘Deborah’s Diary,’ supposed to be penned by Milton’s daughter, as the following:—‘I wish I knew the distinction between Temperament and Genius,’ without a note of exclamation? The mixture of Miltonic and modern spelling, again, would have puzzled Deborah’s father, had he lived to read it.—If such a book do not appear probable as a picture of manners, and an utterance of ‘parley,’ wherein is its value to be found? We can hardly accept it as a mere pencil outline of the poet of ‘Comus’ in his singing-robe:—still less as an illustration of those incompatibilities in married life which are now (thanks to the new laws) part of our breakfast-table fare every morning in the daily papers. Let the characters be ever so commonplace, the subject is one of no ordinary difficulty. We can recollect only two tales of ill-

assorted married life which deserve to live as works of Art,—as far asunder, it may be added, as Bai- reuth and Bath,—Richter's 'Siebenkäs' and Edge- worth's 'Modern Griselda.'—Conceive, then, the additional responsibility assumed when John Milton is the man to be brought on the stage! There is great want of self-knowledge in the choice of a subject so arduous;—and we have the less hesitation in commenting on it because, in this case, there has been want of patience in working it out. Since we imagine that, in spite of our wisdom, the world may expect some twenty more slight and pleasing imaginary chronicles from the hand that has fabricated 'Deborah's Diary,' we would counsel its owner, in all kindness, to be less ambitious in laying hands on the Great Ones of History and Genius.

A Financial, Monetary, and Statistical History of England, from the Revolution of 1688, &c. Continuation from 1847 to the Present Time. By Thomas Doubleday, Esq.—We have only to report upon this "Continuation" that Mr. Doubleday has seen no reason to change his opinions since we noticed his work eleven years ago [Athenæum No. 1037]. He is still of opinion that our National Debt and Funding systems have drawn us into a course in which the country must become more and more helpless, more and more embarrassed and despised, "until some overruling event shall produce the final crisis." We are no friends of the system which disturbs Mr. Doubleday's rest and peace; but we think he exaggerates the evil and its consequences. The warmth and vehemence with which he writes, and the personalities which he employs towards those who differ from his views, are bad signs. Such subjects should be discussed calmly. The 'Continuation' ends with a useful index to the whole work.

History of Central American Civilization anterior to the Time of Columbus—[*Histoire, &c.*]. By the Abbé Brasseur de Bourbourg. Vols. III. and IV. (Paris: Bertrand.)—In these two last volumes of the Abbé Brasseur's learned and interesting work are included a physical description of the States of Michoacan and Oaxaca, an account of the Indian *indigeni*, details of their civil and religious customs, and the history of the empire of Anahuac previous to the coming of Montezuma. The first volume contains a survey of the Mixteque and Zapotéque tribes—the children of Quetzal Coahuatl as they were called, from their superior intelligence and cultivation of the peaceful arts. Hidden among their volcanic hills, and remote from contact with Northern races, they led an industrial life as goldsmiths, jewellers, carvers, cotton-manufacturers, and dyers in cochineal. Their language was harsh and guttural, and in all probability a corruption of the Maya or Tzendale. To our philological and ethnological readers, to whom the name of the Abbé Brasseur is well known, it is enough to have simply mentioned the publication of these later volumes.

The Vulgar Tongue; comprising Two Glossaries of Slang, Cant, and Flash Words and Phrases, principally used in London at the Present Day. By Ducange Anglicus. (Quaritch.)—Now that slang is everywhere fashionable,—in the street, on the platform, in the drawing-room,—this curious little handbook of 'The Vulgar Tongue' cannot fail of success. Our fair readers who wish to captivate our bold sex may here find the prettiest phrases, and our country cousins who would perfect themselves in "the flash words principally used in London," as now and then made public through the medium of those very interesting police-reports, cannot do better than "nab the chance," and buy this "leary" little book.

A Debate on India in the English Parliament, by M. le Comte de Montalembert, has been "translated by permission of M. de Montalembert," and published ('Continental Review' Office) as "the only authorized and complete translation."—Another version has appeared: *Montalembert on Constitutional Liberty: a Picture of England by a Frenchman.* (Effingham Wilson.)—Other political miscellanies are:—*The Franchise; what shall we do with it?* (Ridgway), and *Defects in the Existing Law for the Registration of Voters*, by W. Albert James. (Adams & Co.)—On special public topics we

have the following pamphlets, of which it will only be necessary to record the titles:—*Promotion by Merit in Relation to Government and Education*, by G. C. Brodrick, M.A. (Ridgway).—*The Opposition to the National System of Education considered in Reference to its Effects on the Established Church of Ireland*, by the Rev. W. Anderson, M.A. (Belfast, Phillips & Son).—*Observations in Favour of the Concentration of the Courts of Justice; Thoughts on the Present State and Prospects of Legal Discontent in Relation to Evidence in the Courts of Equity* (Stevens & Norton).—*A Brief Reply to Mr. Commissioner Phillips's Vacation Thoughts on Capital Punishment*, by the Rev. J. W. Watkins, M.A. (Skeffington), and *The War Reserve*, by a General Officer.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOKS.

Relics of Genius: Visits to the Last Homes of Poets, Painters, and Players, with Biographical Sketches. By T. P. Grinsted. (Kent & Co.)—*The Fairy Tales of Science. A Book for Youth.* By J. C. Brough. (Griffith & Farran).—*The Curate of Cumberworth; and the Vicar of Roost. Tales.* (Masters.)—*The Early Life of Old Jack. A Sea Tale.* By W. H. G. Kingston. (Nelson & Sons).—*Agnes Hopetoun's Schools and Holidays. The Experiences of a Little Girl.* By Mrs. Olliphant. (Macmillan & Co.)—In 'La Petite Fée,' Béranger sings of a fairy of some interest to the world of little people. "Children," he says—

Children, there was once a sprite,
A merry, kind, and gentle fay,
Scarce reaching inches three in height,
Though tall in worth,—and people say,
She with her wand could charm so well;
That Happiness would come, when bid;
"Oh, pretty Fairy, will you tell
Where that magic wand lies hid?"

That wand, we fear, is in the well which is said to be the home of Truth: and is as hard to be got at. Fancy—Happiness coming only for the trouble of calling for her! If it be within compass of the power of humanity to produce such a result, it is certainly the humanity which goes to the making-up of young people. Despotic the best of them are, even the most winning: nay, they, of course, are the most despotic! But happiness is within the power of them all. They alone possess the wand of Béranger's fairy, hidden from all the world besides. To such of them as find felicity in books, the present is the happiest season of the year. For such a section of the juvenile population, the books named above will have strong but separate attractions. Over the 'Relics of Genius,' young, thoughtful, and somewhat romantic readers may pass as pleasant hours as a new book to their taste can afford. It will lead them to some knowledge of men with whom they will have to be more closely acquainted, and they may remember this book as a doorway through which they looked into what now seems to them as the heaven of human life. So Psycho stood at the threshold of Olympus, admiring the glories which she afterwards discovered were not so glittering as she thought them from her first point of view. If, however, there be a young reader who has less curiosity about the biographies of men of mark than touching the marvels of nature and of science,—and we know some youthful philosophers with this latter tendency,—let him, by all means, brighten his holiday time with 'The Fairy Tales of Science,' in which Mr. Brough displays his power, not only to instruct and amuse the young lovers of science, but to entice to such love those hitherto careless about marvels which they could not comprehend, but which the new expositor renders intelligible.—The tales published by Mr. Masters are altogether of another quality, and will give peculiar gratification to the young admirers of self-denying curates and rare, modest priests who cannot, for the life of them, think they are worthy of becoming vicars.—We get into the world again with 'Old Jack,' which will, perhaps, not be accounted a "good" book by the peculiar public who learn church matters, systems, principle, and romance out of the pretty orthodox stories told by Mr. Masters's writers, but which will, nevertheless, be accounted a "jolly book," by honest and hearty boys who honour their fathers and mothers, love play as well as work, and who after a long spell at

Latin verse, Greek Lexicons, "tuck," and cricket, are not too weary to fervently say their prayers and be grateful for their happiness.—'Agnes Hopetoun,' it need scarcely be said, addresses itself to young ladies. If these are made glad by reading it, they need not be, like Annie Mellor, "so sorry and ashamed at being so glad." This story stands half-way between the mere story-book and the novel; the allusion to love-matters and weddings to come, by-and-by, if certain boys and girls behave themselves, having a development in the novel direction.

Mark Dennis; or, the Engine-Driver: a Tale of the Railway. (Rivingtons.)—We have here an account of the constant peril and responsibility attached to the vocation of engine-driving, and a touching narrative of the sorrow and suffering occasioned by a want of regard to necessary precautions. The tale is simply and earnestly written, and bears the impress of reality. The tone is naturally subdued; but a vein of religious resignation runs through it, which redeems it from being thought too gloomy.

Aunt Judy's Tales. By Mrs. Alfred Gatty. Illustrated by Miss Clara S. Lane. (Bell & Dalrymple.)—Aunt Judy is the essence of the excellencies of all the aunts in Christendom; and we only wish that every large family of little people had such a delightful relation to amuse, instruct, direct, and govern them. Auntie is a wag, too, and has a profound knowledge of the natural history of shams; and we prophesy, without much need of the prophet's foresight, that Judy may become the toast and rage in nursery regions.

False Appearances. By Mrs. Mackay. (Hall & Co.)—'False Appearances.' What a suggestive title! Who will not receive a homily on such a topic as a home-thrust? Mrs. Mackay has no lack of materials, nor of descriptive power; but the incidents require to be put in by an artistic hand to give them a touch of reality. The character of Harriet is spoilt by the suddenness with which she is changed from the frivolous follower of fashion to the cheerful and Christian consoler of her ruined father. Again,—Dunlop, the good genius who succours the poor merchant and solicits him to accept a situation of only 300*l.* a year, is too good to be life-like. Nevertheless, there is an undercurrent of sound sense and sober reasoning which will ensure for 'False Appearances' a favourable reception.

The Sisters: a Tale. By Mrs. Charles Tomlinson. Published under the Direction of the Committee of General Literature and Education. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)—Mrs. Tomlinson discourses on the necessity which exists for womanly self-dependence; and she tells us, in 'The Sisters,' a tale illustrative of the increased cheerfulness, freedom, and self-respect experienced by those who are enabled to maintain themselves. We hope the day is not far distant which shall see girls brought up with a definite object, which shall supersede the old stratagems for husband-netting, by making women independent by their own exertions. The work is particularly suited to girls.

Days of Old: Three Stories from Old English History, for the Young. By the Author of 'Ruth and her Friends.' (Macmillan & Co.)—Here are Caradoc and Deva, a tale of the Druids' period; Wulfgar and the Earl, of the Danish period; and Roland, of the Crusading period. They are earnestly and poetically written, and in a pure and gentle tone. The 'Days of Old' bid fair to become as popular with good little people as 'Ruth and her Friends.'

The Boy's Own Toy-Maker: a Practical Illustrated Guide to the Useful Employment of Leisure Hours. By E. Landells. With Numerous Engravings. (Griffith & Farran.)—Here is a capital prize for the boys! It contains directions for making boats, ships, kites, bows, targets, fishing-rods, flies, landing-nets, rabbit-hutches, bird-hoops, balloons, puzzles, and other things too numerous to repeat; and we can only say, that if "Our Boys" do not become as great toy-makers as the Tyrolese youngsters, it will be entirely from want of inclination, and not from want of instruction and illustration.

A Visit to the New Forest: a Tale. By Harriet

Myrtle. Illustrated with Twenty-five Engravings, from Drawings by William Harvey, George Thomas, Birket Foster, and Harrison Weir. (Low & Co.)—This little volume, like its predecessors by the same writer, is intended for the tiny people, and as such would have been more welcome had the pictures been coloured, — children, small ones especially, being attracted by colours: indeed, babies in general would have no objection to play with a rainbow. The tale is amusing and somewhat exciting, for some of the little actors lose themselves and are benighted in the forest, which occasions them and their friends no small amount of trouble and perplexity. Of course, everything ends well.

The "Golden Rule" Story Books. (Hogg & Sons.)—We have here twenty-four small books, for small people, at the smallest of prices; each volume containing from forty to fifty pages of small but clear letter-press, several illustrations, good paper, good writing, and all for the charge of threepence! There are, in No. 1. The Golden Root, The Lavery Rocks, and Isabella. No. 2. William Tell, New England Boys and The Imitation Necklace. No. 3. The First Theft, The Importance of Little Things, and Margaret Cartwright. No. 4. Laribou and the Panther and The Young Botanist. No. 5. "I didn't Intend it," The Dainty Boy, and The Cobbler's Son. No. 6. The Boy who would be a Sailor. No. 7. Harry, Little Bertel and I'll Risk it. No. 8. The Widow's Daughter, Emily Tarlton and the Half-crown. No. 9. The Good and the Ill-Natured Boys, and Courage and Presence of Mind. No. 10. "Golden Rule" Fables. No. 11. The Wishing Well, Truants, and How Birds make their Nests. No. 12. Pence make Pounds, The Squirrel, and Grandfather's Tale. No. 13. The Christmas Tree and the Poor Children and The Robin in the Swamp. No. 14. The Blacksmith of Antwerp, How Corn First Grew, and a Lesson from a Flower. No. 15. The Vase, The Forbidden Fruit, Fanny Bulmer's Mystery, and Life on the Ocean. No. 16. The Talisman. No. 17. Little George, The Way to have Friends, and Peep says Curiosity. In Nos. 18. and 19. are biographical stories of West, Newton, Johnson, Cromwell, Franklin and Christina. No. 20. The Golden Arrow, Black Velvet Bag, and Satin Sashes. Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 24 contain Miss Edgeworth's Tales of the Orphans, the Bracelets, Lazy Lawrence, and Waste not, Want not. We will only say that such a windfall of books is not often shaken from the Christmas-tree.

May all the young world be better and wiser for what they read! That world never had so many well-qualified pens working in their behalf as now. These pens must be working with good results, or it is the fault of youthful readers themselves. Beyond the teaching of books, our young people have not, perhaps, all the advantages they might possess. In schools they see, for they are acute observers, that practice and precept seldom go hand-in-hand; more seldom still, follow each other. Our grandmothers worked samplers, and learned reading, writing, arithmetic, and the catechism. Our daughters learn the higher mathematics, read Caesar, play like professors, and know the uses and advantages of being finely-dressed. The reverend gentleman who prepares them for confirmation engages them to keep stall at his next fancy fair for getting up funds to make a drawing-room of his vestry. Now, a course of fancy-fair stall-keeping for young ladies is as bad as a course of casinos for their brothers. But a consideration of the evils, as contrasted with the benefits of modern education, would occupy too much space. Let it suffice that we have noted a few books, in the perusal of which young people may find a pure enjoyment, according to the varying of their tastes, and so—

Amusez-vous! amusez-vous! amusez-vous, mes enfans! Peut-être vous ne vous amuserez pas si bien demain!

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Arabian Nights' Entertainments, by Lane, n. ed. by Poole, 3 v. 42s. Bohm's Hist. Lib. * Evelyn's Diary, new ed. by Forster, Vol. 1. 5s. Bohm's Scientific Lib. * Carpenter's Animal Physiology, n. ed. 6s. Brathwaite's Retrospect of Medicine, Vol. 30. July to Dec. 1858, 6s. British Imperial Calendar, The, 1859, 12mo. 5s. bd. Buckland's Curiosities of Natural History, 4th ed. 2 vols. 6s. cl. Buxton's Pilgrim's Progress, illustrated by Scott, Pt. 1. 8vo. 12s. 6d. Burns's Christian Exercises for Every Lord's Day, post 8vo. 4s. 6d. Children's Bread from the Master's Table, 32mo. 1s. cl. Conington's Handbook of Chemical Analysis, post 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.

Conington's Tables for Qualitative Analysis, post 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl. Dante's Inferno, Free Translation in Verse, by Whyte, 8vo. 10s. 6d. Dickens's Works, Library Ed. "Dombey & Son," 3 v. V. 1. p. 8vo. 6s. cl. Emerson's and Chapman's Pocket-Book, 1859, 12mo. 6s. roan tuck. Elwes's Herbs and How to Know them, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl. Gilbert's The Logic of Banking, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl. Henry the Fifth, Memorials of, ed. by Cole, r. 8vo. 8s. 6d. half-pd. Henry the Seventh, Memorials of, ed. by Gardner, r. 8vo. 8s. 6d. History of the Indian Revolt, with Maps, Plans, &c. r. 8vo. 14s. cl. Hunter's Paraphrasing and Analysis of Sentences, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl. Hunt's Yachting Magazine, Vol. 1858, 8vo. 14s. cl. Kemp's Conversations on England as It Was and Is, p. 8vo. 8s. 6d. Knott's The Supper of the Lord, fc. 8vo. 3s. cl. London and Provincial Medical Directory, 1859, 12mo. 6s. cl. Lumley's The New Sanitary Law, with Notes, &c., 12mo. 10s. cl. MacKenzie's The Word of Life, fo. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. Marryat's Poor Jack, with Illustrations by Stanfield, 8vo. 6s. cl. Martin's Guide to the Church of Ireland, 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. Martineau's Endowed Schools of Ireland, 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. Mildred Norman, the Nazarene, post 8vo. 5s. cl. Mock and Real Turtle, folio, 12s. swd. Morgan's Lady, Passages from my Autobiography, post 8vo. 12s. cl. More's A Life of Christ, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl. National Magazine and Naval Chronicle for 1858, 8vo. 13s. 6d. bds. Oliver & Boyd's New Edinburgh Almanac, 1859, 5s. bd. Parent's Circle of the Sciences, re-issue, "Organic Nature," Vol. 3, 5s. cl. Parent's Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction, n. ed. Vol. 2, 1s. cl. Parker's Complete English Spelling Book, 2d. ed. 12mo. 1s. cl. Parker's Short English Spelling Book, 2d. ed. 12mo. 1s. cl. Pinckney's Short Analysis of the History of Modern Europe, post 8vo. 12s. cl. Poetical Sketches of the History of Modern Europe, post 8vo. 8s. 6d. Railway Library, "James's Black Eagle, or Thionderogen," 2d. bds. Ringing-life's A Manual of Practical Sciences, Vol. 25. 6s. cl. Ritchie's Winter Tales, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. cl. Sargent's Social Innovators, and their Schemes, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl. Smith's Cruise of the Mary, Illust. folio, 10s. 6d. cl. Somerville on the Connection of the Physical Sciences, 9 ed. 9s. cl. Sport and Pastime, Physic and Gastronomy, 2d. ed. 2s. 6d. swd. St. Peter's Dream and the Poem, 8vo. 1s. cl. Trollope's Charles Chesterfield or Advent of a Youth of Genius, 2d. ed. Visit of a London Exquisite to his Maiden Aunts, Illust. folio, 21s. Webster's Royal Red Book for January, 1859, square, 4s. cl. Who WHO, 1859, 16mo. 2s. 6d. cl. Williams's Cathedral or the Catholic and Apostolic Church, 6th edit. fo. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.

American Importations.

American (New) Cyclopaedia, Vols. 3 and 4. 8vo. 18s. each. Barnes's Faith in God's Word, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl. Blake's Geological Reconnaissance to California, Plates, 4to. 42s. Burton's Cyclopaedia of Wit and Humour, Vols. 3 and 4. 21s. Cassin's Mammalogy, and Birds of U.S.E. 4to, folio, 15s. 15s. Drake's Treatise on the Law of Sale by Attachment, 8vo. 32s. Faxon's American Fresh-water Fishes, 12mo. 1s. cl. Flint's Milk Cow, and Dairy Farming, 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl. Gibbons's Banks of New York and Panic of 1857, cr. 8vo. 10s. 6d. Girard's Herpetology of U.S.E. 6to, folio, 10s. 10s. Halleck's Poetical Works, 3rd edit. 8vo. 18s. cl. Heroes of the Land, Laure, a Poem, 8vo. 1s. cl. Hovey's Household and Public Letters, 2 vols. 8vo. 24s. Malgaigne's Treatise on Fractures, trans. by Packard, 8vo. 21s. cl. Marvin's Treatise on the Law of Wreck and Salvage, 8vo. 18s. cl. Municipalist, The, in 2 parts, 12mo. 6s. cl. Newcomen's Steam Engine, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl. Old English Tales of Maryland, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl. Prince's Power of Prayer, 12mo. 1s. cl. Prince's Translation of New Testament, cr. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl. Say's Complete Writings on the Chronology of the U.S. 8vo. 72s. Scott's Day Dawn in Africa, 12mo. 1s. cl. Scott's Last Groves, fc. 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl. Sinding's History of Scandinavia, cr. 8vo. 16s. cl. Townsend's Buds from the Christmas Bouquet, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl. Warren's Dust and Foam, cr. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl. Wild Flowers, drawn and coloured from Nature, 32. 3s. Woodbury on the Well-proportioned Arch, 8vo. 1s. cl. Well's Science of Common Things, post 8vo. 5s. half bound.

THE DAMEN-STIFTER IN GERMANY.

Brighton, Dec. 24, 1858.

IT is a pleasant—and not less a significant—sign of the times that a mere passing allusion made by Lord Brougham to the German "Damen-Stifter" (charters or endowments for unmarried ladies) should have excited in this country so much interest and inquiry. It is announced that a future number of the *English Woman's Journal* will contain some account of the origin, details of management, and statistics of these admirable institutions. In the mean time, perhaps, a brief notice of one of these "Damen-Stifter," recently noticed by the Dowager Grand-Duchess of Weimar, may be interesting to your readers. To render what follows intelligible in England, it must be understood that many of these institutions date from the Reformation, and, so far as I can understand, they are more numerous in the Protestant than in the Catholic states. Some are royal, others belong to private families, others again have been founded by individuals: but whether the nomination rest with the sovereign as a matter of favour or recompense, or may be claimed by right of birth, or has been secured by a sort of life assurance on the part of parents or friends, the object and the character of these endowments are, with little variation, the same in all. They are not merely charitable or religious foundations, but, like the fellowships at Oxford and Cambridge, they confer certain honours and privileges, as well as certain advantages, so that the ladies nominated are raised, not lowered, in social rank and in public and private estimation by the position and title of "Stifts-Damen."

The statutes of the new *Stift* at Weimar differ very little from those of other institutions of the same kind in Prussia, Saxony, and Bavaria. It has been founded and endowed in perpetuity by the

Dowager Grand-Duchess as a memorial in honour of her husband the late Grand-Duke Carl-Friedrich (the son of Goethe's friend Carl-August), and is to be called, after his name, the "Carl-Friedrich's Stift." The foundation is for four ladies. They must be the daughters of men who have served the State with distinction, either in a civil or military capacity: the merit and length of service of the father forming the first and indispensable claim on the part of the daughter. The ladies nominated must have completed their seventeenth year; must have received a first-rate education, and must be distinguished by their good conduct as well as their acquirements. Two are to be noble (*Adelige*), and two not noble (*Bürgerliche*); but from the moment they enter the *Stift* they are on an equality. There is to be no religious distinction; members of any Christian denomination being eligible. A residence is provided with all things appertaining, under the control of a governess (*Obervorsteherin*). Each lady has besides an allowance of 200 thalers a year for pocket-money; she takes at once the rank and position of a married woman, requires no chaperon, and is addressed "Madame." She is to wear a distinctive order, a small enamelled cross fastened with a ribbon on the left shoulder; she has a right to presentation at Court, and other social privileges. Three months in the summer of every year must be spent by the ladies in their Institution. The remainder of their time may be passed either there, or anywhere within the bounds of the State, at their own choice and convenience; but they cannot travel into foreign countries, except under certain conditions and leave obtained from the governess. The nomination is for life, unless the lady should marry, or be otherwise provided for: in either case she leaves the Institution and her place is supplied by another. Maidenhood and obedience to the statutes of the foundation are the only obligations imposed; in all other respects there is entire liberty of action. Two sisters cannot be members at the same time. The ladies wear black when residing in their *Stift*; on public and festive occasions, white only.

Such, in substance, are the statutes of the "Carl-Friedrich's Stift" at Weimar. It differs from the numerous other endowments of the same kind, scattered throughout Germany, chiefly in two particulars worth noting, namely, that the merits, loyalty, and services of the father constitute the first claim of the daughter; and that the nomination is not confined to ladies of noble birth. It is understood that the inauguration will take place on the anniversary of the birthday of the late Grand-Duke (in January or February next, I think), the preliminary arrangements being now completed, and the statutes officially published.

It is unnecessary for the present to enter into the question how far similar institutions might be made applicable to the present social condition of England; such is not the purpose of my present letter. In conclusion, I will only observe that the little State of Weimar has certainly been most happy in a succession of Grand-Duchesses, eminent for noble qualities of heart and mind. Everyone acquainted with German literature is familiar with the name of the Duchess Amalie, the friend and correspondent of Goethe, Schiller, Wieland, Herder, and celebrated for attracting and fixing within the circle of her court the greatest literary men of her time. She was succeeded by the Duchess Louisa, a woman remarkable for the simplicity and elevation of her character. She it was who saved Weimar after the Battle of Jena, when Napoleon had ordered the city to be razed to the ground,—when it was already fired by the exasperated soldiery. By her intrepid, dignified, eloquent intercession she not only averted the impending horrors of that disastrous time, but obtained from the conqueror a degree of respect and deference such as the charming Louisa of Prussia had failed to win from him. Her successor, the Grand-Duchess Maria-Paulowna, is the grandmother of the young Prince who has lately married our Princess Royal, and the aunt of the late amiable and excellent Duchess of Orleans. She possesses in her own right a large independent fortune, which since her accession has been expended nobly, wisely, and generously for the best interests of the State over which she came to preside. She has constructed

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roads; she has built bridges; she has supported and extended all educational and charitable institutions; she has decorated the State-rooms of the Palace at Weimar with a series of beautiful frescoes, illustrating the works of those renowned poets who have shed a glory on the place; and now she has crowned all her former acts of munificence by endowing out of her private revenue the foundation I have just described;—and surely it would have been difficult to combine more gracefully honour to the memory of her husband, honour to deserving men, honour to her own sex and to her own kind heart. It bears the name of her husband, but it will bring down a blessing on her own name for generations to come.

Let me add, that the young reigning Grand-Duchess of Weimar is following worthily in the steps of her predecessors,—like them revered for her public spirit, for her graceful patronage of Art and Literature, for her domestic virtues and amiable manners, which have combined with other causes to render Weimar what it now is, one of the most delightful residences in Germany. Of her, too, it may be said, as of our own dear Sovereign, that not the least of the benefits she has conferred on her people is the excellent education of her children. All these four illustrious ladies have well deserved the affectionate title of "Landesmutter" given to them in their own language, and for which, I am sorry to say, ours affords no popular equivalent; we possess, happily, the substantive reality,—we have not the word. A. J.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Naples, Dec. 18, 1858.

WHETHER with or without sufficient reason, every one in Naples is talking of the state of the "mountain." One might imagine that a kingdom was in revolution from the questions put to him in every street.—"Have you heard of Vesuvius?" says your impatient newsmonger.—"Of course, you have heard of the danger which threatens the neighbourhood of the mountain," adds another, who has quite made up his mind on the subject.—"Well, where have you lived not to know that Portici and Torre del Greco have been advised to walk off to Naples?" puts in a third. I have heard reports to the following effect:—Prof. Palmieri, the Director of the Specola, established on the table-land of the mountain, has come down from his lofty perch, and brought some of the principal instruments with him. The Hermit, too,—a not less important character, in his own estimation at least,—no longer sleeps there. At the same time, the Professor warned the inhabitants on or near the foot of the mountain that their position was rather precarious; and has sent in a report to the Government, begging that a commission might be sent to examine into all the circumstances, and determine what had best be done. I believe that some portion of this statement is an exaggeration; though there can be no doubt that Vesuvius is and has long been in a very alarming state. Sufficient, however, has been said to produce such a panic; and I know those who, afraid to remain any longer in Resina, are taking lodgings in the capital. To hear some of these people speak, we might imagine almost that the mountain was a cone of sponge-cake into which the finger might be poked, and if then withdrawn, would be followed by a stream of liquid. "You can hear the lava boiling up under your feet," say they. Others compare its state to what it was before the destruction of Pompeii, and predict some great catastrophe, as the falling in of the crater,—the base of which has been perforated by a number of orifices vomiting forth fire. That such an event might take place, is certainly within the bounds of probability; and around Naples we have abundant evidences of former catastrophes of a similar character. Thus, Somma itself was at one time the mouth of a vast volcano, the jagged sides of which attest that the greater portion of it has fallen in, and Vesuvius has risen up in the centre of it. That which may be asserted without any fear of exaggeration is, that the activity of Vesuvius has greatly increased within the last two months. After the eruption which occurred in the spring, two or three large

orifices remain at the foot of the crater; to these have been added many others, so that at night Vesuvius appears as if it had a necklace of carbuncles. Not being able to see Prof. Palmieri, who is in Avellino, I did the next best thing which remained to be done,—I drove over to Resina, thinking that the guides could tell me some of the real truths of the matter. But I was little prepared for the storm of indignation that awaited *some one*, whom I could not exactly make out. "Such lies they are telling about the mountain in the journals!" "Why, sir, 'tis quiet as a lamb, and there is not the slightest danger!" I began to feel rather uneasy, and to imagine that the respectable Cicerones were inclined to indulge in personalities.

"Then they say that people can no longer go up; why, if they choose they can go to the top, though that is no longer necessary, as they can see everything at Salvadore." It was evident that they thought their interests had been attacked, and therefore they tried to make out that Vesuvius was gentle as any pet lamb, which might be smoothed on the back with impunity. "And who should know best the state of the mountain, Palmieri, or we who walk all over it daily?" So the cat was let out of the bag, and to my great relief their grievances were put to the account really not of the journals, but of the Director of the Specola. "And what has Prof. Palmieri done?" I asked. "Why, he has sent in a report to the Minister, saying that the people in the neighbourhood should be cautioned that it was unsafe for them to remain, and begging that a commission might be sent out to examine into the state of the mountain." "And has it arrived?" "Not yet, sir! it has been expected during the last four days." "And where is the Professor?" "Oh, he has left the Specola; he always goes down in the winter; but now they say that he is ill, and is frightened at the aspect of the mountain; but I should like to know who is best acquainted with its state, he or the guides." Having by this time had what the Neapolitans call their "sfogo," I began to question them more in detail. The carriage-road is of course incumbered with the stream of lava which rolled over it last summer, but travellers leave their carriages at this point and then get into them on the other side of the bed. "There are full twenty-tostreams now," said one. "You can't say for certain," said another, "because they change from day to day, or from hour to hour—some being closed up, and others opening; it is a splendid sight." Such, indeed, appears to be the case; the crust of the mountain is so thin, and the body and the force of the lava so great, that it is continually bursting through. In this way a number of orifices have been formed, and the crater has become a species of honeycomb. Supposing this work of destruction to be carried on all round, there might be some reason in the apprehension that the walls will no longer be able to support the upper part, and that a tremendous fall in must take place. At the back of Vesuvius, in the direction of Ottaviano, fires have burst out within the last few nights, and the whole heavens were irradiated as I was passing through Santa Lucia on the night before last. It is a singular fact, that the lava instead of descending is now ascending, that is to say, it has fallen on a species of ledge, and accumulating upon this from time to time it has risen nearly to the height of the Hermitage, and must, if it goes on, swallow up both it and the Specola. Leaving aside, then, all exaggerations, Vesuvius for the moment is a most interesting subject of examination for the inquirer into volcanic action, and a highly interesting object to the mere spectator. I believe that I have told you all that can be said at present, setting down whatever is repeated by contending parties, for even Vesuvius has been made a party subject, and so will every question be which involves the interests of individuals. Science and Lucre are evidently at daggers drawn in Naples; but whilst parties are quarrelling about his state, the Old Man of the Mountain looks on most philosophically, and smokes his meerschaum as if he were the least interested in the subject. I shall close this letter with the copy of a report which I have just received from the Guides who reside in Resina.—"Last night, about half-past eight o'clock, the crater of 1855 emitted a quantity of

smoke, and a great noise was heard at the same time, whilst a number of smoke holes were opened. At the foot of the Hermitage the lava has covered no fewer than four houses, and continues to destroy the country in the neighbourhood. Near the Hermitage there are twelve currents of lava, whilst on Monday there were twenty-two. Notwithstanding the abundant rains which have fallen during the last month, the wells are all dried up, and water is wanting. Two craters have been measured, one of which is discovered to be 600 feet deep, and the other 620 feet. The two first mentioned being perfectly hollow beneath are very difficult to be measured. They are cracked in their circumference, and have many fissures. Last month there was a bed of fire, full a mile in length."

H.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

A soft, warm week, with gleams of sun and webs of mist and rain, brings in a New Year's Day, with a face and presence like itself. No startling fear disturbs our holiday. War is dying out in the far East. Nearer home, we are everywhere friendly and at peace. The depression of last year is gone. Money is abundant, business brisk, the nation hopeful. Our columns during the past five weeks have borne emphatic witness to the enterprise and prosperity of the trade in Letters, Art and Science. New institutions are starting into life. Theatres are being enlarged and re-built. All the places of public entertainment seem to be thronged, and tremendous hits are the fashion and reality of the day. The country enters a new year with elastic tread, and with the courage of high blood and robust health.

The vast variety of seductions offered to holiday makers is bewildering. All the theatres, from Covent Garden to the Grecian, produce burlesques or pantomimes, some thirty, more or less, in number; giving one for each night of Master Willie's vacation! Then Mr. Albert Smith has come home from China, and transformed Egyptian Hall from a Swiss Village into a Street in Canton, and begun to poke his merry and sagacious fun at Mandarins and Pigtails. Then we have the Crystal Palace, the Polytechnic, and the Colosseum, each with its programme of delights and wonders. Then there are the marvellous ponies at the Alhambra,—and the yet more marvellous horses and horsemen and horsewomen at Astley's. The Great Globe is also full of attractions, new and old, dioramas, dresses, science and gossip. Funniest of all pantomimes is Mr. Barnum's explanation of those arts by which he says money can be always made; though it is understood these arts have not enabled him to keep his own.

Prof. Max Müller has been elected a Corresponding Member of the French Institute.

At the age of seventy-five, on the 20th of December, died Mr. S. W. Singer, whose name has been most recently before the literary world in connexion with the sale of his collection of MSS. and as an editor of Shakspeare and Bacon. Mr. Singer had been a labourer during a long and studious life, and his name occurs on title-pages from the very beginning of the century. Mr. Singer may be considered to have been entirely self-educated, but his knowledge of books and of their contents was extensive, minute and multifarious: his services, especially to the cause of Old English Literature, must be rated high. His habits were retired, and his tastes refined; and while he shared the fate which no illustrator of the text of Shakspeare seems able to escape, of being involved in controversies occasionally more than warm, his nature was kindly and his attachments were affectionate.

In John Williams, Archdeacon of Cardigan, Wales has lost a scholar and man of letters, who had connected the Principalities with learning and literature for half a century. Besides being the biographer of Alexander and Cesar, Mr. Williams was one of the few surviving friends of Scott and his great Edinburgh contemporaries. He was born in 1792, and was a ripe Welsh scholar.

In Dr. Barlow's note on the proposed Dante Festival, "this year" should have read "next year." Of course, the Doctor's proposal refers to the year which begins to-day—not the one which

closed last night. An editorial change of a word in Dr. Barlow's note (when he called Dante "the greatest of modern poets," for which we substituted "the greatest of Italian poets")—a change which we do not think it necessary to justify,—brings us a good-natured remonstrance.—"The alteration of 'modern' to 'Italian' not only altered my sentiment, says Dr. Barlow, but unjustly deprived 'il mio Maestro e il mio Signore' of the full measure of his fame, and of the honour intended to be done him. I hold Dante to be the greatest known poet that ever lived, whether ancient or modern; but am sufficiently modest to bespeak for him only the first place among the moderns. He was the first of the great modern European poets in time, and all other nations, save our own, place him first also in the greatness of his subject, and the grandeur, and beauty, and perfection of his style. We are jealous of the supremacy, or supposed supremacy, of our own immortal Shakespeare. The Italians place Shakespeare next to Dante; and when we consider how much more than a poet Dante was, the part which he acted on the great Theatre of the Middle-Ages, and the character of a whole nation which he represented in his own person,—whose spirit still lives, and will live, deep working in the minds of men so long as Italy and the world shall last,—perhaps even we may or ought to be satisfied in placing the Immortal Bard of Avon second only to his precursor of Florence."—We admit the explanation, and reject its conclusions.

Which of the two is it? Are the reporters by nature incapable of truly rendering what is logical, or are public functionaries by nature or art wholly given to be illogical? How comes it that we so constantly see the grossest fallacies attributed to men of high station? Suppose any one were to remonstrate against a certain measure as tending to encourage theft: and suppose it answered, first, that mankind have a natural tendency to theft, and secondly, that they do steal already. Would not any one rejoin that these are precisely the grounds of objection to anything which tends to promote theft? Now let us turn to Cambridge, and to its Vice Chancellor, and to his speech to the boys who went up for examination.—

"It had been stated, as an objection to the system, that it would encourage schoolmasters to give undue attention to the best boys in the school: but it was in the nature of things that boys of talent would always receive from their teachers more attention than others. Prizes were given for the encouragement of good boys, so that it was no new thing for the promising boy to receive more attention than the stupid one."

The Vice Chancellor first argues in answer to a promotion of tendency, that the tendency exists already: from which we should infer that sedatives, not stimulants, ought to be applied. He then infers, from the fact of prizes existing, that the promising boys already receive more attention than the stupid. Our readers will easily understand that the mere existence of prizes does not prove that any boys receive any attention at all. But to another point. There are very few *stupid* boys; that is, of boys who go to school: but there are such things as *stupefied* boys among those who come away. The Examinations, so long as they are conducted on the present principles, will much increase this number. But we are in the middle of a mania, which must run its course: the time will come when the tendencies of the system are seen, and we shall continue to protest, though no protest will be of any use at present.

Mr. Paley wishes to make the following statement:—"Permit me, in justice to the publishers, to correct a misstatement in your notice of the second volume of 'Euripides.' You say, the editor 'has not found time to prepare a new revision of the text.' So far is this from being the case that every line and word in the whole of the plays have been most carefully and conscientiously considered in connexion with the numerous and often perplexing various readings furnished by the best critical editions. Consequently, the text in this edition is an entirely new recension, and no pains have been spared in making it as accurate as my judgment and knowledge would allow. It is because I deprecate hasty editing, and have the greatest contempt for the mere 'book-

making' system, that I expressed regret that more time had not been given to the volume in question. At the same time, the very careful study of 'Euripides' for some twenty-five years, and the practice gained in former editions of Greek plays, may surely be weighed as a counter-balance against what seems a somewhat rapid production of a commentary to his writings.—I am. &c.

"F. A. PALEY."

An Anglo-Saxon friend writes:—"I notice in the *Athenæum* a suggestion that the University of Cambridge, which boasts so many Anglo-Saxon scholars, should provide a chair for the induction of a Professor of Anglo-Saxon therein. I am afraid, like many other good suggestions, this will be lost upon the worthies engaged in adapting that great national institution to the requirements of the age. Let the question, therefore, be well ventilated; and if, out of the ample provision for far more useless subjects, a cushion cannot be found to render the said chair more comfortable in the shape of an endowment, a discerning public will, no doubt, aid in providing one. But, in truth, a little shifting would render this unnecessary. Surely one Professor of Arabic would suffice for the one or two who attend his lectures, and elaborate small manuals which no one reads. If the study of the language of the East is useful as a collateral connexion of the Hebrew, surely the 'Matrix lingue' of the English is worthy of some attention in this respect.

The times are getting past when Germans squabbled for ages over pages of whitey-brown paper, as to whether *τόντο* or *τάντα*, tweedle-dum or tweedle-dee, was most correctly placed in an imperfect fragment of a Greek play,—which valuable discussions were duly dinned, *ad nauseam*, into our Cambridge *alumni*, who were all the while utterly ignorant of the true use of common English expressions—which is the reason, perhaps, why dog Latin was the vehicle employed for instructing them. Real, nervous, manly English is what this book-reading age wants in the sea of print it is compelled to wade through; and for this purpose—and for progress in the study of the principles of the language which nine hundred and ninety-nine thousandths of Englishmen take most interest in—I say, Bosworth is preferable to Brunck, and Trench to Porson.—I am, &c.,

"OLD ENGLAND FOR EVER."

At the last meeting of the Dramatic Authors, at Paris, M. Maleville reported that the great-granddaughter of Racine was educated, at the expense of the society, modestly but respectably, in a convent at Blois. The young lady is stated to make more satisfactory progress every year,—and to be proud of being named the adoptive daughter of the Society of Dramatic Authors.

The executors of the will of Béranger, MM. Perrotin and Paul Boiteau, at Paris, have published an advertisement, by which they invite all those who have received letters from the late poet, to co-operate in the publication of a complete edition of the 'Correspondance de Béranger.' All contributions of the kind are to be addressed to M. Perrotin, 41, Rue Fontaine Molière.

King Maximilian of Bavaria has granted the sum of 8,000 florins towards the publication of Prof. Tycho Mommsen's new critical edition of the works of Shakespeare after the earliest prints.

Dr. Tarliran, of Milan, who has just set out on his journey to Central Asia,—undertaken partly for scientific, and partly for industrial purposes,—is at this moment at Berlin, in order to solicit the advice and recommendations of Baron Humboldt, Karl Ritter, and Prof. Dove. The expedition is to extend as far as the Chinese frontier, with the object of there investigating the production of silk.

The German papers report from Colberg, in Pomerania, on the Baltic:—On our woody shores have lately settled large numbers of the Northern snow-owl (*Strix nictea*, Linn.). Many have been shot, and one has been caught alive and brought to town. This bird lives only in the highest regions of the North, or the other side of the Arctic Circle. Dr. Kane found it north from Smith's Sound, under the 80th degree of latitude, where it makes war on the polar hare and the snow-hen. Little less in size than the long-eared owl, the snow-owl has a pure

white plumage, with here and there some blackish brown spots. Its feet down to the strong black claws are thickly covered with little feathers, looking like wool. Its appearance in Germany is most likely owing to the violent storms from the North, which swept all Europe during the middle of November.

Press lawsuits, at present, seem to be rather in vogue with our continental neighbours, in France, as well as in Germany. Even "Father Arndt," the nonagenarian of Bonn, has been subject to a persecution of this kind. In his recent interesting work, 'Meine Wanderungen und Wandlungen mit dem Freiherrn von Stein,' there occurs a passage on the late Bavarian Field-Marshal Count Wrede, which, although merely a report of a fact witnessed by the writer, has, nevertheless, induced the Bavarian Government to proceed against the veteran patriot. Arndt, of course, being a Prussian, and living in Prussia, did not attend to the summons of the Bavarians, and has thus been sentenced *"in contumaciam,"* by the Court of Justice, at Zweibrücken, Rhineish Bavaria, to two months' imprisonment, besides a fine of fifty florins, and the expenses. Happily for him, the unity of Germany (of which he sang so beautifully in his every known song, "Was ist des Deutschen Vaterland"), is still an unrealized dream, else there would be no escape for him. As it is, he may smile at the vain fulminations of "Baierland," and enjoy the honour of the solemn "Fackelzug," which, when the above sentence became known at Bonn, was brought to him by the citizens and students of that university. For curiosity's sake, we subjoin a translation of the passage in Arndt's book which has given rise to this ridiculous lawsuit:—"Stein goes one day to dinner at the country-house of his Frankfort bankers, Messrs. Metzler & Co. While they are sitting over a cup of coffee, a splendid carriage drives to the gate, and the Bavarian Field-Marshal Count Wrede is announced. At the mention of that name, Stein jumps up, calling out to his people to put his horses to directly. The Metzlers try to stop him, but he hastens out, exclaiming, 'With such a d—r robber I shall not sit in one room.' This anger towards Wrede has this reason: of all the German troops under French command, the Bavarians and the Darmstädters had left the worst reputation behind them in North Germany, by their want of discipline, as well as by their roughness and love of plunder. Wrede was accused, and not unjustly, not only of having been too indulgent to his soldiers, but of having set them the worst example himself. On a certain occasion Stein had surprised him. Wrede was quartered in Schloss Oels, the castle of the Duke of Brunswick, in Silesia. Here, he had imitated the worst of the French robbers, Soult, Massena and others, who after dinner used to take the plate they had dined on, sending it on along with their luggage. In the same manner Wrede had appropriated to himself all the Duke's plate; the poor steward of the castle could not hinder him, but asked the Count to give him a document by which he might justify himself as having delivered the silver up only by usage of war. The Field-Marshal was surprised into signing this minutely specified document, and this paper, in 1813, fell into the hands of Stein, who, in the next year, made Count Wrede pay a handsome round sum, making up the value of the stolen treasure."

JAPAN, CHINA, INDIA.—GREAT GLOBE.—DIORAMAS of Japan, China, and India.—Admission to the whole building, 18 Great Globe, Leicester-square. Open from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

BARNUM'S ADDRESS REPEATED AT ST. JAMES'S HALL ON TWELFTH NIGHT, January 12.—Tickets for his former Address having been taken in advance, Mr. P. T. Barnum, of New York, will have the honour of repeating his Address upon the ART OF MAKING MONEY, &c., with Arguments, Experiences, Anecdotes, and Pictures. His Hall will be open at Seven o'clock, and Eight. Carriages may be ordered for a Quarter to Ten.—Stalls, 3s.; Balcony, 2s.; Body of Hall and Gallery, 1s. Tickets at Chappell & Co.'s; Mitchell's Royal Library; Cramer & Beale's; Jullien's; Keith & Co.'s, 4s. Cheapside; A. Clark's, 1s. Jermy Street; and at the Hall, 3s. Piccadilly.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Patron, H.R. HIGHNESS THE PRINCE CONSORT.—In consequence of the great success of CHILDE'S New and Splendid PHANTASMAGORIA, arrangements have been made to exhibit it daily at the Hall, from Two to five every Evening, except Saturday evenings, and on Sunday evenings, One o'clock, and on all the NEW DISSESSIVINE VIEWS, DODS, & COXOTE, and all the other CHRISTMAS LECTURES and ENTERTAINMENTS.—THE FIRST DISTRIBUTION amongst the Juveniles of the GIFTS from the WHEEL OF FORTUNATUS will take place on WEDNESDAY NEXT, the 5th of January.

Managing Director, R. I. LONGBOTTOM, Esq.

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XUM

Mr. ALBERT SMITH'S CHINA is OPEN every Evening (including Saturday) at Eight, and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Afternoons at Three o'clock.—Stalls, numbered and reserved, which can be taken in advance from the Plan at the Egyptian Hall, every day from 11 to 4, without any extra charge, 2s; Areas, 2s; Gallery, 1s.

Dr. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 3, Tichbourne Street, opposite the Haymarket, Open Daily (for Gentlemen only).—Lectures at Three, Half-past Four, and Eight o'clock, on important and interesting topics in connexion with Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology (vide Programmes). Admission, 1s.—Dr. Kahn's "Nine Lectures on the Philosophy of Marriage," &c., will be free, direct from the Author, on the receipt of twelve stamps.

SCIENCE

SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—Dec. 15.—Prof. J. Phillips, President, in the chair.—The Rev. J. H. Austen, The Rev. A. Maclellan, J. Sharp, H. Christy, and J. Paul, Esq., were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read:—"On the Succession of Rocks in the Northern Highlands," by J. Miller, Esq.—"On the Geological Structure of the North of Scotland, Part III. The Sandstones of Morayshire, containing Reptilian remains, shown to belong to the Uppermost Division of the Old Red Sandstone," by Sir Roderick I. Murchison. Referring to his previous memoir for an account of the triple division of the Old Red Sandstone of Caithness and the Orkney Islands, the author showed how the chief member of the group in those tracts diminished in its range southwards into Ross-shire, and how, when traceable through Inverness and Nairn, it was scarcely to be recognized in Morayshire, but reappeared with its characteristic ichthyolites in Banffshire (Dipple, Tyne, and Gamrie). He then prefaced his description of the ascending order of the strata belonging to this group in Morayshire by a sketch of the successive labours of geologists in that district; pointing out how in 1828 the sandstones and cornstones of this tract had been shown by Prof. Sedgwick and himself to constitute, together with the inferior Red Sandstone and conglomerate, one natural geological assemblage; that in 1839 the late Dr. Malcolmeson made the important additional discovery of fossil fishes, in conjunction with Lady Gordon Cumming, and also read a valuable memoir on the structure of the tract before the Geological Society, of which to his, the author's, regret, an abstract only had been published. (*Proc. Geol. Soc.* vol. iii. p. 141.) Sir Roderick revisited the district in the autumn of 1840, and made sections in the environs of Forres and Elgin. Subsequently, Mr. P. Duff, of Elgin, published a "Sketch of the Geology of Moray," with illustrative plates of fossil fishes, sections and a geological map, by Mr. John Martin; and afterwards Mr. Alexander Robertson threw much light upon the structure of the district, particularly as regarded deposits younger than those under consideration. All these writers, as well as Sedgwick and himself, had grouped the yellow and whitish-yellow sandstones of Elgin with the Old Red Sandstone; but the discovery in them of the curious small reptile the *Telerpeton Elginense*, described by Mantell in 1851, from a specimen in Mr. P. Duff's collection, first occasioned doubts to arise respecting the age of the deposit. Still, the sections by Capt. Brickenden, who sent that reptile up to London, proved that it had been found in a sandstone which dipped under "Cornstone," and which passed downwards into the Old Red series. Capt. Brickenden also sent to London natural impressions of the footprints of an apparently reptilian animal in a slab of similar sandstone, from the coast ridge extending from Burgh Head to Lossiemouth (Cummingstone). Although adhering to his original view respecting the age of the sandstones, Sir R. Murchison could not help having misgivings and doubts, in common with many geologists, on account of the high grade of reptile to which the Telerpeton belonged; and hence he revisited the tract, examining the critical points in company with his friend the Rev. G. Gordon, to whose zealous labours he owned himself to be greatly indebted. In looking through the collections in the public museum of Elgin and of Mr. P. Duff, he was much struck with the appearance of several undescribed fossils, apparently belonging to reptiles, which by

the liberality of their possessors, were, at his request, sent up for inspection to the Museum of Practical Geology. He was also much astonished at the state of preservation of a large bone (*ischium*), apparently belonging to a reptile, found by Mr. Martin in the same sandstone-quarries of Lossiemouth, in which the scales or scutes of the *Stagonolepis*, described as belonging to a fish by Agassiz, had been found. On visiting these quarries, Mr. G. Gordon and himself fortunately discovered other bones of the same animal; and these, having been compared with the remains in the Elgin collections, have enabled Prof. Huxley to decide that, with the exception of the *Telerpeton*, all these casts, scales, and bones belong to the reptile *Stagonolepis Robertsoni*. Sir Roderick, having visited the quarries in the Coast-ridge, from which slabs with impressions of reptilian footmarks had long been obtained, induced Mr. G. Gordon to transmit a variety of these, which are now in the Museum of Practical Geology; and of which some were exhibited at the meeting. After reviewing the whole succession of strata from the edge of the crystalline rocks in the interior to the bold cliffs on the sea-coast, the author has satisfied himself that the reptile-bearing sandstones must be considered to form the uppermost portion of the Old Red Sandstone, or Devonian group,—the following being among the chief reasons for his adherence to this view.—1. That these sandstones have everywhere the same strike and dip as the inferior red sandstones containing Holopitychii and other Old Red Ichthyolites, there being perfect conformity between the two rocks, and a gradual passage from the one into the other.—2. That the yellow and light colours of the upper band are seen in natural sections to occur and alternate with red and green sandstones, marls, and conglomerates low down in the ichthyolithic series.—3. That, whilst the concretionary limestones called "Cornstones" are seen amidst some of the lowest red and green conglomerates, they re-appear in a younger and broader zone at Elgin, and reoccur above the *Telerpeton*-sandstone of Spynie Hill, and above the *Stagonolepis*-sandstone of Lossiemouth; thus binding the whole into one natural physical group.—4. That whilst the small patches of so-called "Wealden" or Oolitic strata, described by Mr. Robertson and others occurring in this district, are wholly unconformable to, and rest upon, the eroded surfaces of all the rocks under consideration, so it was shown that none of the Oolitic or Liassic rocks of the opposite side of the Moray Firth, or those of Brora, Dunrobin, Ethisie, &c., which are charged with Oolitic and Liassic remains, resemble the reptiliferous sandstones and "Cornstones" of Elgin, or their repetitions in the Coast-ridge, that extend from Burgh Head to Lossiemouth. Fully aware of the great difficulty of determining the exact boundary-line between the Uppermost Devonian and Lowest Carboniferous strata, and knowing that they pass into each other in many countries, the author stated that no one could dogmatically assert that the reptile-bearing sandstones might not, by future researches, be proved to form the commencement of the younger era. Sir Roderick concluded by stating that the conversion of the *Stagonolepis* into a reptile of high organization, though of nondescript characters, did not interfere with his long-cherished opinion—founded on acknowledged facts—as to the progressive succession of great classes of animals, and that, inasmuch as the earliest Trilobite of the invertebrate Lower Silurian era was as wonderfully organized as any living Crustacean, so it did not unsettle his belief to find that the earliest reptiles yet recognized, the *Stagonolepis* and *Telerpeton*, pertained to a high order of that class.—"On the *Stagonolepis Robertsoni* of the Elgin Sandstones; and on the Footmarks in the Sandstones of Cummingsdale," by Mr. T. H. Huxley.—"On Fossil Footprints in the Old Red Sandstone, at Cummingsdale," by S. H. Beckles, Esq.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Dec. 23.—F. F. Ouvey, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair.—The Treasurer presented an impression of the Great Seal of the Commonwealth.—Mr. S. Stone exhibited a number of reliques from the Anglo-Saxon Ceme-

tery, near Yelford, Oxon.—The Director communicated further remarks on the forgeries of ancient seals.—Mr. W. Durrant Cooper read "Notes on the Great Seals of England used after the Deposition of Charles the First, and before the Restoration, 1660."

NUMISMATIC.—Dec. 23.—W. S. W. Vaux, President, in the chair.—Mr. Vaux read a paper, "On Coins of Marathus in Phenicia, and of Kamnacis and Anzaze," in which he pointed out the extreme rarity of these specimens, which had been acquired at a recent sale for the National Collection of the British Museum. The principal coin of Marathus is a silver tetradrachm in fine workmanship, exhibiting on the obverse a female head with the usual Syrian turreted head-dress, and, on the reverse, a naked male figure seated upon shields, with a Phoenician inscription to the effect that this coin was struck in the thirty-third year. Mr. Vaux gave a list of all the coins of Marathus he had seen, or found described in different collections, bearing dates varying from 14 to 107, and suggested that the whole of them might refer either to the Seleucid era, or (in the case of the smaller numbers) to the regnal year of one of the Seleucid princes. The other coin of Marathus (a hemi-drachm) was chiefly remarkable for exhibiting a veiled female head—doubtless a portrait—and considered by some to represent that of one of the Berenices. Mr. Vaux showed that this hypothesis (to say the least) was improbable—but that it might refer (possibly) to Apame, the wife of Seleucus, the founder of the Syrian Dynasty. The coins of Kamnacis and Anzaze are chiefly notable for the very fine preservation of their obverses; in other respects, they are similar to two specimens procured by Mr. Vaux three years ago from Hamadán, in Persia.

STATISTICAL.—Dec. 21.—Col. Sykes, M.P., V.P., in the chair.—Miss Nightingale, and Messrs. Edward Baines, S. Herapath, H. B. Hyde, F. Jourdan, and W. Reamie, were elected Fellows.—Mr. J. J. Fox read a paper, "On the Vital Statistics of the Society of Friends."—The conclusions deduced from the author's researches, are as follows:—1. The Society is undergoing decrease from two causes: viz. the excess of secessions over accessions, and the excess of deaths over births; the former of which causes operates most on the male sex, and the latter on the female.—2. Its distribution, as regards sex and age, differs from that of the general population in two important respects; viz. in the much larger excess of females over males, and in the much smaller proportion of individuals at the younger ages.—3. Even with a large addition for marriages between members and those not belonging to the Society, it presents a marriage-rate considerably below that of the general population.—4. The fecundity of marriages is apparently greater than in the general population; whether it actually is so, is a point which must be left undecided.—5. The death-rate is considerably below that of the general population.—6. The improved value of life is materially different in the sexes: so that, while the expectation of males throughout life is considerably greater than that of the male population of England, that of females from infancy to middle life, is but slightly greater than that of the general female population.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Dec. 22.—T. Clegg, Esq., in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Members:—Messrs. A. P. Bower, C. A. Hacket, John Mollett, and J. A. Phillips.—The paper read was "On the Culture and Preparation of Cotton in the United States," by Mr. Leonard Wray.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. Entomological, 8.
TUES. Royal Institution, 3.—"On Metalline Properties, Strength, and Elasticity, &c.," by Prof. Faraday.
Photographic, 8.
WED. Geological, 8.—"On some Fossil Plants from the Devonian Rocks of Gaspe, Canada," by Dr. Dawson.—"On some Points in Chemical Geology," by Mr. Hunt.
Royal Society of Arts, 3.—"On Metalline Properties, Three States, Alloys, &c.," by Prof. Faraday.
Zoological, 8.—"General."
ROYAL, 8.—"A Sixth Memoir on Quantities," by Mr. Cayley.
Royal, 8.—"On the Mathematical Theory of Sound," by Rev. S. Earnshaw.—"Researches on the Phosphorus Basis,

Part III. Phosphorescent Ureas; and Contributions towards the History of the Monamines, by Dr. Hoffmann.
Archaeological Institute, 4.
Sat. Royal Institution, 3.—On Metalline Properties, Voltaic Battery, &c., by Prof. Faraday.
— Asiatic, 2.

FINE ARTS

Examples of Stained Glass, Fresco Ornament, Marble and Enamel Inlay, and Wood Inlay. By J. B. Waring. Drawn on Stone and Printed in Colours by Vincent Brooks. (Brooks.)

This magnificent Domaniel folio, all a-shine with torrid reds and blues, and glittering with laces of gilding, is such a book as fifty years ago only a Government or a *dilettante* like Beckford would have ventured to publish,—since Art-illustrated works had then but a small public, and were intensely costly in production. But in this golden and hopeful age of our young art, Mr. Waring calmly passes through the press his bossy volume as big as a portfolio, by help of chromolithographs and drawings lately purchased by the Department of Science and Art—to which, we believe, he belongs;—and the best of the enterprise is, that here students too poor to travel have drawings of great Italian frescoes and wall-decorations,—not merely truthful, but of the full, natural size, and in the full, natural colours. Mr. Waring, already known to the Art-world by his Italian and Spanish studies, his Crystal Palace Handbooks in conjunction with Mr. Digby Wyatt, and his designs for civic architecture, commences his book—which is dedicated to Prince Albert—by lamenting that Architecture has so long been studied without reference to the sister-arts of Sculpture and Painting, which are its decorating handmaids. The Greeks knew better than this, —for the Parthenon was radiant with colours and peopled with statues;—the Moors knew better,—for their mural decorations make you forget their walls;—but Mr. Waring's observations are so quick and sensible that we must quote them. He says:—"It is true that constructive science is of primary importance to the architect, yet it can do no more than form the skeleton, which it is his duty to render not useful merely, but agreeable to the eye; and in order to effect this, he must of necessity call in the aid of the artist in stone, in colour, in metal, wood, and mosaic work, and possess the knowledge and good taste requisite to apply them to his subject;—the useful should never be separated from the beautiful. The last is the complement of the first, of which every work of the Divine Creator, the great architect and artist of the universe, affords striking and inimitable proof."

There is not a more encouraging sign of progress than the increased capital of knowledge which the young architect is now obliged to start with. Formerly, a little Vitruvius and a great deal of impudence was all that was required to furnish a charlatan like Kent, who used the five orders of architecture to adorn the gown of a duchess. Then, a Chambers, with some Chinese whims, could distort any nobleman's gardens from their clipped Dutch trimness; and, indeed, we all wandered in a pathless region, a chaos of conflicting atoms of different tastes. Now, as Mr. Waring says honestly,—"servile imitation is an evil almost necessarily attendant on the revival of any style or manipulative art." Novelty and beauty excite our admiration, and drive us to imitation, and, lastly, to rivalry, which is healthier. We learn to rise on the dead men's shoulders,—piling up the Giotto and Raphael coffins for our children to see further from, as observatories and as scaffolds for still nobler deeds, just as old cities form the foundations of new ones, and dead leaves the best manure for young trees. We must admire and venerate, and then turn our back,—and not copy, but invent and create. We must garner up and take stock of our information, and from the old chart plan out new lines of travel,—making, like the astronomer, each new star a rest for a new outlying telescope.

In stained glass that seems made of melted jewels Mr. Waring gives us some very precious specimens from Lucca and Florence: burning blues, the reds of fiery martyr-robes, gold of the sun's own dye, green like the Swiss lake water or a bossy

soda-water bottle, which is of a marvellous colour, lace-work of banded flowers, amaranth and violet, forget-me-not and everlasting chestnut browns, dear to Italian eyes, and the tone of a Titian's satyr skin. Such are the hues he dazzles our cold blue northern eyes with in his long triumphal procession of armed saints and hard-foreheaded preachers. Arches of lapis-lazuli, crescents of perpetual flowers, bow over the upward-turned brows of ecstatic Pauls and Peters; praying kings and supplicant servants of God shine in the robes of the blessed, and appear to us as in a luminous vision, in such chromatic harmonies that they come to us as in clouds of music or in strains of angel quiring. The welded glass shows like the Urim and Thummim of the High Priest, and seems in more glorious instances radiant with the very Shekinah itself. Mr. Waring's description of the Italian-Gothic style of mural decoration begun by Giunta da Pisa, and followed up by Cimabue, Giotto, Memmi, Gaddi and Aretino, is a favourable specimen of his curt, simple, clear, accurate manner of Art-description. He says, the general characteristics "are—a dado, or base panelled with imitations of various marbles, contained within borders painted in imitation of the glass mosaic work usually known as Open Greccanicum, having at times central designs of intricate geometrical and leaf ornament. About six feet from the floor is a cornice with small brackets or consoles, all radiating in perspective to a central point of sight; above this, the wall is divided into large compartments, containing historical or religious figures subjects; the figure being strongly outlined, and the colours flat and distinct, with but a slight use of chiaroscuro; these compartments are also inclosed in painted mosaic borders, and beneath each is a description of the subject illustrated, written in peculiar Gothic letters, of a very good style,—the vaulting of the roof springs immediately from above these pictures: the only actual projection being one large central rib, ornamented with winding foliage and mosaic borders and painted mouldings, to carry it off more agreeably on to the flat surface of the vaulted compartments, which are almost always painted of a deep blue, studded with gold stars, and in the centre of each of which are painted figures, usually holding written scrolls descriptive of their meaning. Sometimes the names are written on the clouds beneath, from which they frequently appear to rise. The intersection of the rib is masked by a gold boss, carved and gilt, but not of great size, having a ring in the centre, from which depended the lamp. The ornament is generally a mixture of mosaic work, Roman reminiscences and transcripts from Nature, the first two, however, being predominant. The colours are well arranged, and the ornamental accessories, such as dresses, buildings, thrones, armour, &c. are of great variety and beauty, and very well executed." The blue vaults, star studded,—the packing of saints into coffins,—the virginal heads, are beautiful in effect, and are subject to beautiful weirings, deepenings and lightenings of colour, according to the hour and season. The red and blue lozenge of the beams and panels has a strange religious harlequinade effect, though the figures are often spotty or rude.

From the frescoes, Mr. Waring descends to the ingenious wood-inlaying mentioned by Theophilus in his twelfth-century treatise, but first found now in Venetian ivory and wood boxes of two centuries later. Doors, presses and sacristy seats were adorned, in this way by means of a limited palette of dark and light woods used in veneers. Fra Giovanni, of Verona, in the sixteenth century, carried this art miles further, using slips of polished willow for his high lights, and artificially dyeing his other woods with strong waters, coloured infusions and dark penetrating soaking oils. The Dominican monk, Fra Damiano, of Bergamo, excelled even this man, burning in his shadows, and, with inlaid wood, using such fine carpentry that no one's eye could detect the joint. This crafty monk produced landscapes and figures which France and Flanders afterwards improved, but finally let die. But lately the art has been revived for mere trade furniture. The light yellow figures in these examples contrast well with the low red-toned ground, and remind us of the pretty plaiding of Tunbridge ware.

In marble inlay Italy also is very rich, with its white lace-work on coal-black grounds, its signs of the zodiac, wheels of fortune, and flaunting heraldic emblems, its red and black roundels and lozenges and general geometric puzzle-work, where order looks harmoniously thrown into pleasing confusion. Rome, Ravenna, Lucca, are all full of specimens, and on the facade of the Pisa Duomo it is used with a zebra effect on large surfaces of wall. The early pavements of Siena have the figures cut in outline, filled in with mastic; the ground is white, and the grey marble inlaid stands for shadows. They look like designs for huge brasses. In the Florence Campanile the tower becomes a mere show-card of geometric patterns, so redundant and beautifully overdone is it. In pavements it soon got worn out, but it is admirably fitted for monumental slabs within rails or on walls, and sometimes for the rare spots in external wall surface, as round an arch or over a door. In one beautiful instance, in the Baptistry pavement in Florence, there is a great zodiacal circle of this inlay originally marked with incised lines. A double row of arches and columns radiate from the centre, the basis of the outer columns resting on the centre of the arches of the innermost circle, the whole being filled in with foliated ornament, in which are inserted the twelve zodiacal signs, and said to have been once part of a sun-dial. It is inscribed thus: "Let those who wish to see wonderful things come hither, and they may see sights which even in the dust continue to please."

Mr. Waring's suggestive and instructive book of Art-examples closes with a burst of gorgeous metal-work and enamels from Pistoia and other Italian cathedrals. Here, the patient hands of dead craftsmen, wise in their generation, beaten out of the rough ore, saints and apostles of wonderful dignity and great beauty on a ground of blue enamel, spotted thick with little golden starlets, which come with a great sense of richness to our eyes after the black and white mottled of the chess-board marbles. There is also wonderful tabernacle of Orcagna's brain,—the Church of St. Michele, Florence. With regret we close the lid on these floriated marbles, cabled with red and black,—these flowering, blossoming stones, that genius has shaped,—these coffin-black pavements lined with white,—these scales and linings of ever-radiant enamel,—this thorny branch work of geometric unisons knotted together,—these black shields of dead Florentines,—these convolutions of blue and gold, green and violet, marbles. We thank Mr. Waring for a useful selection from his sketch-book, brought out, as all productions should be to be of full use, in all the grace and strength of their original outlines, and in all their bloom and glory of colour, that knows no autumn, till the star shall wither out and the sun itself shall fade away like a flower.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—So the people are to have another Crystal Palace, north of London, on Merton Hill!—An exceedingly attractive set of drawings, by Mr. Owen Jones, was last week exhibited at the St. James's Hall, to show us what manner of building the new Palace is to be. Oriental, or Moresque, of course,—the Byzantine beehive dome,—the tall square turret topped by a reversed bell,—lend themselves by nature (we might say, necessity) to this new form of construction and new application of materials. In the general design and combination of these, however, Mr. Owen Jones has shown great variety. The arcades, by Herr Eisenlohr, at the Heidelberg station of the Baden Railway, however intolerable the masonry (already shored up!) are not more appropriate, to the verge of originality, than this new arrangement of iron and glass for the new purposes which the time and our climate seem disposed to "bring out."—How the fest is to be done is no affair of the *Athenæum*: meanwhile, what fest is to be done may be best told by a literal citation from the "Description of the Building":—

"In the centre of the building is a dome 200 feet internal and 216 external diameter, springing 36 feet from the floor of the dome, but 48 feet from the general level of the building; rising between four towers, connected together by galleries. The square block thus formed is 276 feet by

276, and is flanked by two naves, each with a clear area of 235 feet by 120, with side-aisles 72 feet wide. The ends of the building are 264 feet by 48; and in continuation are two semicircular colonnades, 120 feet internal and 296 external diameter, which from their position will command the most beautiful views of the neighbourhood; and have therefore been devoted to refreshment courts. The extreme length of the building is 1,296 feet; its greatest width, 492; the total area covered is—on the ground-floor, 511,088 feet; on the gallery-floor, 138,816 feet; and on the upper floor, 91,008 feet; total, 740,802 feet. Galleries 48 feet wide run round the dome and naves, and across the ends; with upper galleries round the dome and at the two extremities of the building. The fall of the ground enables an additional story, 48 feet wide, to be placed in the basement on the south side, which corresponds with the level of the railway station on the north side."

Further:—

"To render such an institution thoroughly available to the instruction of the masses, the architect felt it to be necessary to provide a lecture-theatre, in which the varied collections may be explained to large numbers; and in the centre of the building, on the north side, he has placed a lecture-theatre, 216 feet internal diameter, surrounded by corridors 24 feet wide, communicating with three floors of the building. This theatre would contain ten thousand people, and he believes that every one might see and hear distinctly. The corridors would enable such a number to collect, without confusion, to their seats, or to disperse with equal facility."

—Ten thousand people to hear any given lecture! surely this implies the fitting-up of new lecturers of *ten-thousand-people* power, interest, knowledge, variety, and lungs! Without reference, however, to probability (to practicability, even)—to comparisons with Sydenham,—or to prophecies of the year '61,—the plans exhibited at the St. James's Hall are effective and original.

It is one of the most singular features of the growth of Art in this country, that even in the intervals of business City men have learnt to snatch a moment for the quiet beauties of a picture gallery. Mr. Flatou's collection of modern paintings, now on view in the pleasant and spacious gallery of Messrs. Leggatt, Hayward & Leggatt, in Change Alley, though still a little crude and shapeless, is by no means despisable. It is true the names of MacLise, Etty, Landseer and Frith do not necessarily always imply very first-rate works,—nor would we always feel certain that we are not looking at merely a copy, *replica* or early immature sketch of the master whose name is down ostentatiously in the catalogue,—but still there is quite enough to interest the chance visitor and attract the casual and not very critical purchaser.—There are studies by Mr. Ward,—rich and dark,—and wicked prettiness by Mr. Frith,—classicalities by Sir C. Eastlake,—smoothnesses by Mr. Baxter,—portraiture by Mr. Deane,—interiors by Provis,—Hibernicisms by Mr. Nicoll,—and, above all, there is that dull, grand *Westminster Assembly of Divines* (133), by Mr. Herbert, R.A. Dick Steele said beautifully of a certain lady (let us hope his Pure), that "to know her was a liberal education"—we may see that to City men visits to this easily accessible gallery will be an Art-education.—Even our singing-rooms now are yielding to the demands and the voracious eyes of the public, and are turning their gilded walls into picture-galleries. Evans's smoky singing-palace den has long been a theatrical portrait gallery, where between mouthfuls of the orange rabbit you catch glimpses of Kitty Clive and Peg Woffington.—Now, Canterbury Hall has caught the pleasant Art-epidemic, and between the forest of white-stalked pipes you peep at real Rosa Bonheur, Ansdells, and other worthies.—*Vogue la Galerie!*

We have received a mezzotint engraving, by Mr. F. Bromley, of Mr. Grant's equestrian portrait of Major-Gen. the Hon. Sir James Yorke Scarlett, K.C.B., &c., which was exhibited at the Royal Academy. It is published, we believe, by Messrs. Forrester, of Piccadilly, and will doubtless obtain a recognition in mess-rooms and officers' quarters.

The picture is a rough, manly one, wrought out in that peculiar charred, fuzzy mezzotint peculiar to these later days. The officers of the Fifth Dragoon Guards did not ill when they commissioned Mr. Grant, in his careless, pleasant way, to record the likeness of the brave lamented Commander of the Brigade of Heavy Cavalry, at the great charge between the sea-side rocks of Balaklava,—the Thermopylae of the Crimean war,—the firm features, the clear eyes, light curved mouth, shaded by the helmet, and framed by the veteran's grey hair, will recall him to those who

remember the Russian light-blue jackets cantering up the valley, and the Greys and Enniskilleners going at them gaily as a Melton man at a wary bull-fence. They broke their first line, but the second, dark and serried, was closing its black jaws on the grey horses and red coats, when with the shock of thunder the Royals and Dragoon Guards bore down and smashed the Muscovites as a crowbar does the ice sheets of a park pond.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.—MONDAY EVENING.—In consequence of the great success of the late Concerts under the direction of Mr. Benedict, the Entrepreneurs beg to announce that **FOUR more POPULAR CONCERTS** will be given in ST. JAMES'S HALL, on the Evenings of Monday, Jan. 3, Monday, Jan. 10, Monday, Jan. 17, Monday, Jan. 24, 1859. Madame Vidor, Mademoiselle de la Poerierie, Mlle. Behrman, Mlle. de Villar, Miss Lascelles, Miss Messon, Miss Bansford, Miss Eyles, Miss Gerard; Signore Luchesi and Dragons; Mr. Sautley, Mr. Wybey Cooper; Mr. Sims Reeves, the Swedish Singers; Violoncello, Signor Patti; Harmonium, Herr Engel; Czerny, Chopin, Liszt, and others. Price, 1s.; Box Seats, 2s.; Conductor, Mr. Benedict. **Sofa Seats**, 2s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved Seats, 1s.; may be obtained at the Hall, 2s.; Piccadilly; Keith, Prowse & Co.'s, 4s.; Cheshire; Cramer & Co.'s, 2s.; Regent Street; Chappell & Co.'s, 5s.; New Bond Street.

MISS SIMS REEVES and MISS GODDARD will appear in the St. James's Hall, on **MONDAY EVENING, January 3, at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS**, in conjunction with the Swedish Singers, &c. &c.—**Sofa Seats**, 2s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved Seats, 1s.; may be obtained at the Hall, 2s.; Piccadilly; Keith, Prowse & Co.'s, 4s.; Cheshire; Cramer & Co.'s, 2s.; Regent Street; Chappell & Co.'s, 5s.; New Bond Street.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD begs to announce that **MISS SWEDISH SINGERS** will appear at the **MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS** in the St. James's Hall, on the **MONDAY EVENING OF MONDAY, January 3, at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS**, in conjunction with the Swedish Singers, &c. &c.—**Sofa Seats**, 2s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved Seats, 1s.; may be obtained at the Hall, 2s.; Piccadilly; Keith, Prowse & Co.'s, 4s.; Cheshire; Cramer & Co.'s, 2s.; Regent Street; Chappell & Co.'s, 5s.; New Bond Street.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD begs to announce that **MISS SWEDISH SINGERS** will appear at the **MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS** in the St. James's Hall, on Saturday, January 13, to commence at Half-past Two o'clock, supported by Signor Patti; Herr Jules Reiss, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Herbert, &c. &c.—**Sofa Seats**, 2s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved Seats, 1s.; may be obtained at the Hall, 2s.; Piccadilly; Keith, Prowse & Co.'s, 4s.; Cheshire; Cramer & Co.'s, 2s.; Regent Street; Chappell & Co.'s, 5s.; New Bond Street.

'THE MEISSEN' AT MANCHESTER.—The Handel year is about to open with one celebration, among others, which we command to the notice of such of our Continental friends as have been used to question England's sincerity in matter of musical feeling. A recent performance of 'The Messiah' in Manchester, by the Choral Society lately established there, was so remarkable and impressive in its excellence as to lead to a result which the *Athenæum* may notice with peculiar pleasure, inasmuch as it shows that past fancies of ours on the subject were not hopelessly Utopian.—"Could not something be done" [Athen. No. 1611], was written in respect to the Birmingham Festival, "to satisfy hungerers and thirsters after Handel belonging to a class unable, by reason of their fortunes, to enjoy performances so costly?" That "something," we are informed, will be done in the Free-Trade Hall of Manchester, early in February, when a Committee of gentlemen will offer the same performance of 'The Messiah' gratuitously to the working classes of the cotton capital,—which, we should add, implies the payment to every artist engaged—great, middle-sized, or small—of his full terms. It is gratifying that a county, whose "chorus-singers" passed into a place of their own long ago, are any other district was rich in voices or in love of Handel, should thus offer the initiative in the English Centenary performances destined to honour the memory of so great a man.—Let us not forget, however, that Manchester abounds in German residents; so that there may be something of "*entente cordiale*," besides English enthusiasm in the matter,—as, indeed, there should be.

PANTOMIMES.

THE pantomimes at the different theatres, both metropolitan and suburban, are, this year, both numerous and magnificent. That at **DEURY LANE** merits, perhaps, the first place, for its thorough effectiveness as well as for its truly national subject. So perfectly had it been rehearsed that, on **Boxing Night**, there was no perceptible hitch during the entire progress of the performance, and all went on smoothly as if it had already run a

dozen nights. It is entitled 'Robin Hood; or, Harlequin Friar Tuck, and the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest,'—and is written by Mr. E. L. Blanchard. Its great scene is Nottingham Market Place, representing the great May Fair of the year 1188, illustrated with the games in which our ancestors delighted,—such as climbing the may-pole, jumping in the sack, shooting with the bow, and other popular sports and pastimes, including the famous morris-dance. The transformation-scene is one of Mr. Beverley's best,—representing the Fairies' Retreat:—it is a moving and unfolding piece of mechanical work, which develops into an ever-changing prospect of extraordinary brilliancy and beauty.

At **COVENT GARDEN** the subject is 'Little Red Riding-hood; or, Harlequin and the Wolf in Granny's Clothing.' It is written by Messrs. Sutherland Edwards and Bridgeman. The transformation-scene represents the installation of Little Red Riding-hood in the Prismatic Hall of Iris,—which was very artistically managed.

At the **PRINCESS'S**, the pantomime was upon an

original subject, invented by Alfred Crowquill, and entitled 'The King of the Castle; or, Harlequin Prince Diamond and the Princess Brighteyes.' Here an insolvent monarch persecutes his daughter by an attempt to marry her to a decrepit old baron,—but the Prince and Princess manage to escape, by means of a magic brilliant staff, the jewelled nob of which fascinates their pursuers. The cruel father gets his toes well bitten in the Realms of Frost, and he and all his court are ultimately swallowed in the recess of a huge rock, shaped like the head of a Colossus, which was intended to close upon the lovers. The transformation-scene represents the Palace of Jewels, and is exceedingly brilliant, though simple in its arrangement, consisting mainly of a many-coloured revolving star.

At the **HAYMARKET**, Mr. Buckstone has chosen for his argument the well-known subject of 'Undine; or, Harlequin and the Spirit of the Waters.' The transformation-scene—which is painted by Mr. F. Fenton—represents the Translucent Temple of the White Sea Horses, and is "beautiful exceedingly." The closing tableau is occupied with the Palace in Delhi, and allegorizes the inauguration of the British empire in India.

At **SADLER'S WELLS** the title of the pantomime is 'Harlequin and Old Izaak Walton; or, Tom Moore of Fleet Street, the Silver Trout, and the Seven Sisters of Tottenham.' The Palace of Pearls in the Realms of Crystal forms a splendid transformation-scene.

At the **STANDARD**, Mr. Douglass has selected for his pantomime the title of 'Queen Anne's Farthing; or, Harlequin Old King Counterfeit and the Fairy of the Magic Mint.' The transformation-scene is of the most gorgeous description:—a crystal fountain, with a canopy of brilliants, supported by Naiads, clothed in silver, with the Fairy King reclining under it. In the basin under the fountain another row of Naiads, likewise in silver, are discovered, with revolving stars, on either side, —making altogether a complicated and magnificent whole.

The same manager, also, has given a good pantomime—written by Mr. Dolphin—to the **PAVILION**, entitled 'Hand-Pandy, Sugar and Candy, which Hand Will You Have? or, Harlequin Orpheus and the Magic Lute.'

At the **CITY OF LONDON**, Mr. Nelson Lee has selected for his subject 'King Comet and Prince Quicksilver; or, Harlequin All the World and His Wife';—and at the **GRECIAN THEATRE**, Messrs. G. Conquest and Spy have produced a clever version of 'Guy Faux; or, the Amazon Queen and the Fairy of the Sea-Weed Isles.' The transformation-scene is remarkably elegant, presenting the Gold-lace Boudoir and Fairy Jewelled-Chamber of Aqua Regia:—the artist being Mr. Smithers.

BURLESQUES, ETC.

LYCEUM.—The most ambitious of the burlesques is that by Mr. R. B. Brough, on the "high argument" of the Iliad, and entitled 'The Siege of Troy.' It is an elaborate and most complicated poem, illustrated with costly scenery. *Homer*

himself is introduced as "Our Correspondent," (Mr. Emery), taking notes of the war, and offering advice to the chiefs. Especial prominence is given to *Ajax* (Mr. C. Young) and *Hector* (Mrs. Keeley)—the former of whom figures as the *Salamis Pt.*, and the latter as a Rarey-showman. The wily Greeks are so delighted with his exhibition of horse-training that they evince their gratitude by presenting him with the Wooden Horse. The transformation-scene, "the Dawn on Mount Olympus," painted by Mr. Calcott, was extremely gorgeous. A brief pantomime followed, closed with another splendid specimen of scenic art—"the Bowers of Perennial Bloom."

OLYMPIC.—An extravaganza, from the pen of Mr. H. J. Byron, and entitled "Mazeppa," affords Mr. Robson the opportunity of exhibiting some fine caricature acting in the line of mock tragedy, for which he has become so celebrated. The burlesque follows rather the equestrian drama at Astley's than Byron's Poem. The horse on which the hero is bound is the Rocking-Horse of Lowther Arcade;—tied on the back of which poor Mazeppa tells the tale of his sufferings in a series of puns, that are better than the usual run of such now-a-days. When released from the horse he becomes delirious, and fancying himself a star-ridder at Astley's, utters a wild rhapsody, accompanied with a pantomimic dance. His lady-love becoming insane, he next recovers her by means of a "bones accompaniment." In all this, the excellence of the acting redeems the absurdity of the conception, and extorts the plaudits of the house.

STRAND.—This little theatre also sports a burlesque, manufactured with some skill by Messrs. Halliday and Laurence, and entitled "Kenilworth; or, ye Queen, ye Earle, and ye Maydenne." The incidents are too well known to need any fresh statement. It is sufficient to inform the reader that *Amy Robart* is saved from death by her crinoline, which prevents her from falling through the fatal trap. The authors have mainly depended on pun and parody, and met with a degree of success highly creditable to the young dramatists, and full of promise for the future.

The burlesque was preceded by a new comedietta which Mr. Frank Talfourd has contributed to this stage. It is in one act, and entitled "The Rule of Three." The story is deficient in some stage-requisites; but the dialogue is telling and natural. The plot turns upon the tendency to jealousy in *Mr. Thistlebur* (Mr. H. J. Turner), and the fidelity of his wife, *Margaret* (Miss M. Ternan). The latter, of course, easily solves the difficulties raised by the former state of mind. The suspicious husband is in danger from three individuals, whom he plays off against each other, and who visit him in his pleasant suburban cottage, of itself sufficient, even without a pretty wife, to attract guests. Of these, *Mr. Brassy Glittermore* (Mr. Parselle) condescends to a falsehood, not for the assurance of his host, pretending that he is a married man and a father, and is, therefore, permitted to enjoy a longer stay than Thistlebur originally intended. Anon, the latter's nephew, *Augustus Flutter* (Mr. W. H. Swanborough), appears; and is soon followed by *Mr. Hector Templeton* (Mr. W. Mowbray). Flutter's attentions to the wife are dangerous; and Thistlebur resolves to employ either Glittermore or Templeton to neutralize them, and ultimately fixes on the latter. Flutter and Templeton are accordingly betrayed into a quarrel,—when Glittermore, seeing his opportunity, presumes on his acquaintance with the lady previous to her marriage, and assails her with a powerful temptation. As we have stated, her fidelity is proof against it, and she informs her husband of the insult. Here the play might end;—but something has yet to be settled. Flutter receives a letter consenting to his union with one *Arabella*, on the part of her uncle, and incidentally alluding to Glittermore's wife and family. Glittermore's character is now fully exposed; and his host and hostess taunt him with the bitterest irony they can command,—advising him that his imaginary family are suffering from sudden illness that requires his instant return home. Glittermore makes his escape, and Thistlebur resolves to be

henceforward on his guard against jealousy. The little piece was judiciously acted, and moderately successful.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The journals of the week have announced that Dr. Bennett's "May Queen" is the musical work commanded, according to usage, for the New Year's performance at Windsor Castle.

M. Rémusat's comic opera company began their proceedings on Wednesday evening with "La Part du Diable," in which the principal character was taken by Madame Faure.—This lady, who has sung chiefly in the French provinces since her marriage, will be best known to the frequenters of operas by her maiden name as Mlle. Petit-Brière:—and in that most remembered for the lively way in which she gave the couplets of the *camel-boy* in M. Auber's "Prodigal Son."—Of the rest of the company we may speak another day.

Madame Viardot is expected in London very shortly.—Mr. H. Leslie's Biblical Cantata, "Judith," will be performed at *St. Martin's Hall* early in March, with herself, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Signor Belletti, in the parts sung by them at Birmingham.

An election of King's Scholars took place on the 20th of last month at the Royal Academy of Music, when Miss Charlotte Tasker and Master G. H. Thomas were nominated. There were thirty-six candidates.

Italian journals talk of a project to raise a statue to Bellini, in his birth-place—Catania. In the present unmeaning plight of Sicily such a homage approaches farce.

M. Berlioz, in his last *feuilleton*, speaks so emphatically in praise of Madame Barbot, the new *soprano* who lately appeared at the *Grand Opéra* of Paris,—that, once again, we will hope her success there to be a real success, *in spite* of the praise in the papers. It is certain, at least, that such favour as the lady has gained owes nothing to "puff preliminary."—The project of re-building the theatre on the site of the *Hôtel Osmond* has been, wisely, abandoned; a less convenient situation (as has been already said) hardly existing in Paris.—Miss Thomson, the young English lady whose promise attracted attention at a late Concert of the *Conservatoire*, has made her *début* at the *Grand Opéra* of Paris as *Mathilde* in "Guillaume Tell."

There is news from Stuttgart (in the *Gazette Musicale*) of an entire success lately won in the Opera-house of the Suabian capital, by "Anna von Landskron," the composer of which is Herr Abert, who, some few years ago, on Stuttgart authority, the *Athenæum* mentioned as a composer from whom something was to be expected.—If the tale be true, it is good tidings for Germany.

The fancy of setting up meritorious organs spreads more rapidly than the willingness of organ-players to go to school.—The French have not a single great organist among them to range with Herr Schneider of Dresden, or Mr. Best of Liverpool, or Herr Lemmens of Brussels (who, by the way, has, at Brussels, no organ worth playing on). But our allies are beginning "to stir" in the matter of building. Mention has been made of the improvements projected for the instrument in the Church of Saint-Sulpice at Paris:—there is now, we perceive, a plan on foot, to provide the noble Cathedral at Bourges with a noble instrument; let us hope, (thirdly,) a noble organist.

It will amuse our opera-goers to learn from the *New York Musical Review*, that Mlle. Piccolomini has been attempting the part of *Lucrezia Borgia*, for which the periodical in question says, "she lacks ability as a singer as well as physical power." The singing of Herr Formes as *The Duke*, to continue quotation, "was coarse and therefore unsatisfactory."—Mlle. Poinsot has appeared in "Les Huguenots" with success.—Among the Transatlantic "bubbles of the hour," we perceive advertised the concert-singing of a lady who styles herself "the coloured nightingale."

Long live the old Fairy Tales! Fancy French playwrights, for a story, being driven back on "Cinderella."—Yet a new "Cendrillon" by M. Barrière has just been produced at the *Théâtre*

Gymnase:—and, we hope, may prove a more lasting attraction there than the single, double and triple Disrespectabilities who have, for a while, been queening it as heroines on the stage of Paris. The principal part is excellently performed, says M. Janin, by a new actress, Mlle. Victoria.

Late paragraphs in our papers announce that the promised bounty of Mr. Dodd to the founders of the Dramatic College has been so delayed in its fulfilment, owing to the conditions of self-illustration with which it has been hampered,—that other ground may probably be taken for the buildings; the funds in hand warranting the commencement of them.

Another suit in the Court of Evidence concerning the parentage of melodies has been going on in the French journals. It might have been fancied that if there ever was a writer who carried the outward and visible signs of English "roast beef" in his works, that was Charles Dibdin:—and it is as new as curious to us to learn that any song of his could cross the Channel—especially about the year 1758—and be naturalized there, not like Madame de Boufflers' tureen full of hot rolls for the English, but as a home commodity.—Yet it absolutely appears that "Poor Jack" and the "sweet little cherub" were done into French by the Marquise de Travanet; and that, the other day, people have been claiming for her not merely the words, but the tune of "*Pauvre Jacques*," which happens, moreover, to be one of Dibdin's less orderly tunes.—An "Old Flemish Amateur," in a letter to the *Gazette Musicale*, has made the due rectification;—pointing out, moreover, that during the Revolution the "Sweet little Cherub" was changed for Royalist words, and the tune became a party one. Here is matter for a pretty quarrel! The French have always had a hankering, we know, for "God save the Queen," which they have claimed for Lulli. Will no controversial Englishman find out that the "Marseillaise" was altered from an air by Dr. Arne? Few things drollier than the dispute about this song of all songs have come before us.

MISCELLANEA

The Retail Book-Trade.—I am led to send you a few words ariant Mr. J. Globes's communication, in your last issue, as upon a couple of points, so far as I can see, I do not exactly agree with him. I say so far as I can see, for the drift of his letter is rather indefinite. There is one point, indeed, in reference to which he is distinct enough—that the retail bookselling business is on the verge of bankruptcy, if it be not already toppling over. Now, I cannot but think, however truly your Correspondent may represent the state of trade in Leamington, that his remarks have no very wide application—at least, in their literal rendering. I certainly hear elderly men here speak of having done a better business years ago, but none seem in a state of despondency. I sometimes attribute their croaking to their years. Yet, even granting that "the trade" is low,—how is it to be raised? Surely not by making a poor mouth about the matter. But Mr. Globes urges his retail brethren to retrieve their position, and asks the wholesale to help, while he calls upon all to combine. Yet he does not hint how combination is to effect his object. I suppose any reader is at liberty to guess. I'll make an offer, then, and can't do more than miss. Some years ago, if I rightly remember, a publisher endeavoured to force a retailer to sell his books at the published prices. The case was brought before an eminent Judge, and he asserted the freedom of the latter to sell at what rate he liked. Now, does Mr. Globes fondly hanker after some protective law, arranging that no book be sold under a certain fixed price? Does he wish the bookselling trade to take a retrogressive step to prohibit competition and set up a monopoly? Does he wish all this to be effected through an association? If this be not the drift of his letter—what is? Allow me to subscribe myself
FREE TRADE.

Dublin, Dec. 30, 1858.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—M. C.—E.—J. T. B.—Duck.—K.—T. H.—W. A.—Geologist.—E. V. R.—received.

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